THURSDAY
March 30, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
16 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

Vol.54 • No.75

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

RELIGION IN POLITICS

SC slams 'silence of state' on hate speech

NEWS » PAGE 10

GREAT NICOBAR PROJECT

No tribal will be evicted, says govt.

NEWS » PAGE 12

TRIBUNAL ORDER

₹1,338-crore penalty on Google upheld

NEWS » PAGE 12

DATA POINT

No arrests for recent custody deaths in T.N.

Scheduled Castes more affected than others

OPINION » PAGE 9

TSAI-MCCARTHY MEET

China warns against Taiwan-U.S. links

WORLD » PAGE 13

FIR against DKS for 'throwing money'

D.K. Shivakumar

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

An FIR has been registered against Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar for the alleged distribution of cash during a campaign in Mandya district on Tuesday. Mandya DC and district election officer Gopalakrishna confirmed the developments while a local returning officer said that the FIR was registered against Mr. Shivakumar in the Mandya Rural police station.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7

Karnataka election on May 10; results on May 13

CEC says urban apathy and money power the main challenges in holding election in the State, more than ₹80 crore has been seized, even before the Model Code of Conduct came into force

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Karnataka will choose its next Assembly in a single-phase election on May 10, with the results to be announced on May 13.

Setting the ball rolling for one of the most keenly awaited electoral contests before the 2024 Lok Sabha poll, the Election Commission announced on Wednesday that while the Karnataka poll notification will be issued on April 13, April 20 is the last date for filing nominations. The last date for withdrawal of nominations is April 24.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar listed urban apathy and money power as the main challenges in conducting elections in the State. To encourage greater voter participation, the poll has been scheduled on a Wednesday and not on a Monday or Friday to reduce the possibility of people taking a day off and going out for a long weekend, he said.

The CEC said the panel held review meetings with enforcement agencies in Karnataka and issued directions for a strict vigil to police, income tax, excise, state civil aviation and other departments. "More than ₹80 crore has been seized so far", even before the Model Code of Conduct kicked in on Wednesday, he said.

Countdown begins: CEC Rajiv Kumar speaking in New Delhi on Wednesday. Commissioner Arun Goel is at right. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
RELATED REPORTS
» PAGES 5, 6, 7

No Wayanad byelection for now, says EC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Wednesday refrained from announcing a byelection in Kerala's Wayanad constituency, which is vacant after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's disqualification as MP. As he has 30 days to seek a judicial remedy, and the EC has six months to schedule a by-poll, it has decided to wait, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
NCP MP REINSTATED
» PAGE 11

HC acquits all Jaipur blasts accused; orders probe against police

Ordeal ends: File photos of the Jaipur blasts case accused. PTI

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan High Court on Wednesday set aside the conviction and death sentence awarded by a trial court to four persons in the case of the serial blasts that killed 71 people and left 200 injured in the Walled City of Jaipur in May 2008.

Acquitting all the accused, a Division Bench of the High Court held that the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) of the Rajasthan police had failed to prove any aspect of the evidence and there was no basis to establish its theory of conspiracy, in which the accused were sought to be implicated. Some of the evidence produced against the accused also appeared to be fabricated, the court said.

The Bench, comprising Justices Pankaj Bhandari and Sameer Jain, passed strictures against the police and gave directions for initiating an inquiry against the investigating officers. The court said that since the statements made by the accused to the police officers were inadmissible as evidence, they could not form the basis for their conviction.

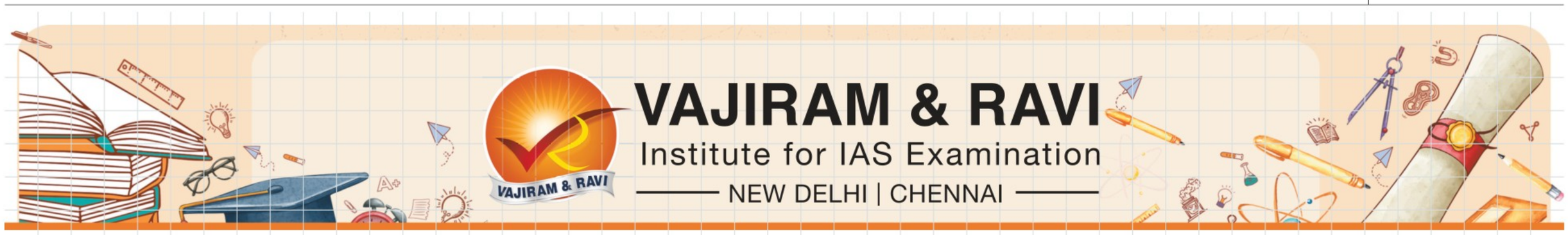
CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

NEARBY

KIA saw good numbers in Feb.

BENGALURU
Despite airspace closure for flight operations at the Kempegowda International Airport due to Aero India 2023 during February, the airport recorded good air traffic movement and passenger numbers during the month.

» Page 4



THE BEST COURSES AT THE BEST CIVIL SERVICES COACHING INSTITUTE

GENERAL STUDIES
PRELIMS & MAINS COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMMES

YOUR GO-TO INSTITUTE FOR GENERAL STUDIES PREPARATION

GENERAL STUDIES COMPREHENSIVE REGULAR
10 MONTHS PROGRAMME
COMMENCES ON 16th APRIL, 2023
REGISTRATION: 5th & 6th APRIL

GENERAL STUDIES COMPREHENSIVE WEEKEND
1 YEAR PROGRAMME
COMMENCES IN MAY, 2023

GENERAL STUDIES COMPREHENSIVE REGULAR
20 MONTHS PROGRAMME
COMMENCES IN JUNE, 2023

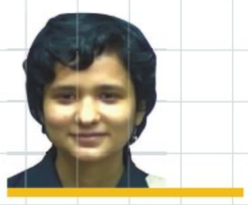
GENERAL STUDIES FLEDGLING COMPREHENSIVE
2 YEAR PROGRAMME
COMMENCES IN JULY, 2023

PRELIM EXCLUSIVE GENERAL STUDIES PROGRAMME
COMMENCES IN JULY, 2023

ACE APPROACH FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS
COLLEGE FOUNDATION 10 MONTHS PROGRAMME
COMMENCES IN JULY, 2023

JOIN OUR GENERAL STUDIES PROGRAMME & ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST OF UPSC TOP RANK HOLDERS

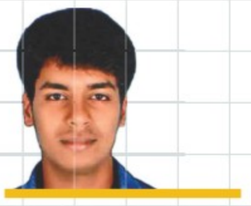
1st RANK HOLDERS (2021-2015)


SHRUTI SHARMA
2021 - Rank 1

SHUBHAM KUMAR
2020 - Rank 1

PRADEEP SINGH
2019 - Rank 1

KANISHAK KATARIA
2018 - Rank 1


DURISHETTY ANUDEEP
2017 - Rank 1

NANDINI KR
2016 - Rank 1

TINA DABI
2015 - Rank 1

BANANABRANDWORKS/VAJIRAM

To enroll: www.vajiramandravi.com

New Delhi Centre: 9-B, Bara Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi - 110 060, Ph: 011 - 42514251

Chennai Centre: No.43, 2nd Floor, Haddows Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 006, Tel: 044 - 4330 2121

ANDROID APP ON Google play | Download on the App Store

Visit our Student Portal: www.vajiramias.com
Email: online@vajiramandravi.com

A BG-BGE

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The number of vacancies in central govt departments

9.79 lakh. The highest vacancies of 2.93 lakh are in railways, the Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh informed Lok Sabha. "Government has already issued instructions to all ministries/departments for timely filling up of the unfilled posts," he added. PTI

Mapping of PACS, dairy and fisheries databases completed

2.63 lakh societies. The Minister informed that in the first phase, the mapping of three sectors was completed. The database is expected to extend to cooperative societies of all sectors by July. It would facilitate stakeholders in planning and implementation of policies. PTI

NCLAT directs Google to implement CCI's order and penalty

1,337 In ₹ crore. The two-member bench of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) directed Google to implement the direction and deposit the penalty amount within 30 days. Google was given a penalty for anti-competitive practices. PTI

The number of mines for sale in the seventh round of auctions

106 mines. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the auctions for the mining of coal blocks. Of the mines offered, 61 blocks are partially explored while 45 are fully explored. About 95 non-coking coal mines, 10 lignite mines and one coking coal mine are being offered. PTI

The ODA loans provided by JICA to the MAHSR project

18,750 In ₹ crore. The (JICA) Japan International Cooperation Agency is said to be supporting the Mumbai-Ahemdabad High-Speed Rail project by providing Official Development Assistance loans. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Understanding the Russia-Belarus nexus

Why is Russia planning to station tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus? Is Russia violating any international agreements by stationing such weapons in an ally country? Has the U.S. done the same with its allies? How are relations between Russia and Belarus? Will this escalate the Russia-Ukraine war?

EXPLAINER

Uma Purushothaman

The story so far:
In the latest escalation to the Russia-Ukraine war, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced last Saturday that Russia plans to station tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus. Tactical nuclear weapons refer to small nuclear warheads and delivery systems meant for use on the battlefield or for limited strikes.

Why the sudden announcement?
Mr. Putin said the announcement was prompted by the U.K.'s decision last week to supply armour-piercing rounds containing depleted uranium to Ukraine. Depleted uranium munitions augment the ability to overcome defences on tanks and have been described by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as "chemically and radiologically toxic heavy metal". Russia claims that the positioning of tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus by Russia does not violate any international agreements that Moscow has signed because the control over the weapons would remain with Russia just as the U.S. retains control over its nuclear weapons on its allies' territories. Moreover, there have been no arms control agreements between the U.S. and Russia on tactical nuclear weapons unlike in the case of strategic nuclear weapons. As Mr. Putin has said, "The U.S. has been doing this for decades. They have long placed their tactical nuclear weapons on the territory of their allies", referring to U.S. nuclear weapons stationed in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Turkey.

Interestingly, the announcement contradicts the joint statement made by Mr. Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping last week where they asked nuclear states to refrain from deploying nuclear weapons abroad. Russia has already helped Belarus upgrade its warplanes so that they can carry nuclear weapons. It is for the first time ever that Russia is deploying nuclear weapons outside its borders. Stationing such weapons in Belarus will enable Russia to carry out strikes easier and faster.

Next level: Vladimir Putin and Alexander Lukashenko in Moscow, Russia on February 17. AP

Why Belarus?
A former Soviet state, which like Kazakhstan and Ukraine handed over its nuclear weapons to Russia after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Belarus has developed close military and political ties with Russia. It is one of the closest and few remaining allies of Russia. It is predominantly Orthodox like Russia with its population almost entirely-Russian speaking. There are also only a few border controls between the two countries. Belarus is a member of the Russian-led military alliance, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, as well as the Eurasian Economic Union. Russia leases two military installations in Belarus, both inherited from Soviet times. Moreover, Belarus gets subsidised oil and natural gas imports from Russia. As was the case with Ukraine, Russia wants to keep Belarus in its sphere of influence and therefore supports the regime of Belorussian President Alexander Lukashenko (often dubbed 'Europe's last dictator'), which is seen as friendly by Russia.

Belarus' geo-strategic position, between Russia and Ukraine and between Russia and Poland, makes it very important for Russia. It also shares borders with three NATO members – Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland. For long, Belarus has been used as a forward base by Russia for power projection, to give it strategic depth. In fact, Belarus has been used as a launchpad by Russia to send troops and launch strikes in the ongoing war. However, Russia-Belarus relations have had their fair share of trouble.

In 2014, Belarus refused to acknowledge the annexation of Crimea by Russia and even hosted the Minsk talks. It also resisted pressure from Russia to host a permanent military base. However, all this changed in 2020 when Belarus was rocked by anti-government protests following what is widely seen as rigged Presidential elections. Mr. Lukashenko was isolated by the West while Russia helped him with a $1.5 billion loan, accepting the results of the elections and promising to intervene if required. The protests were suppressed brutally and a referendum in February 2022 changed the country's Constitution which specified that Belarus would be a nuclear-free zone and would remain neutral. However, in March 2021, Belarus had already agreed to the presence of a joint Belarusian-Russian military unit on its territory, effectively ending its neutrality. Since the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war, Belarus has time and again supported Russia during voting at the UN General Assembly resolutions. So, now Mr. Putin sees Mr. Lukashenko as a dependable ally. Belarus, on its part, is happy about Putin's announcement as it says it has long wanted nuclear weapons because of Western pressure aimed at changing its political and geopolitical trajectory. Minsk says that it needs these weapons to counter NATO's military build-up near its borders.

What lies ahead?
The latest move by the Kremlin clearly escalates the Russia-Ukraine war to an entirely new dimension – the nuclear realm – by bringing tactical nuclear weapons literally next door to NATO members. It is probably also meant to dissuade the West from giving more advanced weapons to Ukraine. But it also gives the West an opportunity to use this pretext to further escalate the war. The move does not bode well for peace.

The writer teaches International Relations at Central University of Kerala

THE GIST

- Russian President Vladimir Putin announced last Saturday that Russia plans to station tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus.
- Mr. Putin said the announcement was prompted by the U.K.'s decision to supply armour-piercing rounds containing depleted uranium to Ukraine. Depleted uranium munitions have been described by the United Nations Environment Programme as "chemically and radiologically toxic heavy metal".
- Belarus' geo-strategic position, between Russia and Ukraine and between Russia and Poland, makes it very important for Russia. It also shares borders with three NATO members — Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland.

How to manage India's solar PV waste problem?

Can PV raw materials be recovered or recycled? How can the country improve PV waste management?

Anjali Taneja
Khushboo Garg

The story so far:
There has in the last few years been a concerted push from policymakers in India to transition to a circular economy and to, among other things, enable effective waste management. But waste management in the solar photovoltaic (PV) sector still lacks clear directives.

What is PV waste?
Globally, India has the world's fourth highest solar PV deployment. The installed solar capacity was nearly 62GW in November 2022. This augurs a colossal amount of solar PV waste. According to a 2016 report by the International Renewable Energy Agency, India could generate 50,000-3,25,000 tonnes of PV waste by 2030 and more than four million tonnes by 2050.

India's solar PV installations are dominated by crystalline silicon (c-Si) technology. A typical PV panel is made of c-Si modules (93%) and cadmium telluride thin-film modules (7%). A c-Si module mainly consists of a glass sheet, an aluminium frame, an encapsulant, a backsheet, copper wires, and silicon wafers. Silver, tin, and lead are used to make c-Si modules. The thin-film module is made of glass, encapsulant, and compound semiconductors.

Is this waste recovered or recycled?
As these panels near expiration, some portions of the frame are extracted and sold as scrap; junctions and cables are recycled according to e-waste guidelines; the glass laminate is partly recycled; and the rest is disposed of as general waste. Silicon and silver can be extracted by burning the module in cement furnaces. According to a 2021 report, approximately 50% of the total materials can be recovered. India's challenge is the growing informal handling of PV waste. Only about 20% of the waste is recovered in general; the rest is treated informally. As a result, the waste often accumulates at landfills, which pollute the surroundings. Incinerating the encapsulant also releases sulphur dioxide, hydrogen fluoride, and hydrogen cyanide into the atmosphere.

India needs to surmount significant collection, storage, recycling, and repurposing challenges. The market to repurpose or reuse recycled PV waste is minuscule in India due to a lack of suitable incentives and schemes in which businesses can invest.

What are the gaps?
First, simply clubbing PV waste with other e-waste could lead to confusion. Instead, India should formulate and implement provisions specific to PV waste treatment within the ambit of the e-waste guidelines. And a Central insurance or a regulatory body should be set up to protect against financial losses incurred in waste collection and treatment. Second, the waste generated from PV modules and their components is classified as 'hazardous waste' in India. To further drive home this label, pan-India sensitisation drives and awareness programmes on PV waste management will be beneficial. Third, considering that India's local solar PV-panel manufacturing is limited, we need to pay more attention to domestic R&D efforts. Depending on a single module type will dis-uniformly deplete certain natural resources and stunt the local capacity for recycling and recovery of critical materials. The domestic development of PV waste recycling technologies must be promoted through appropriate infrastructure facilities and adequate funding.

Why should India act now?
Considering the rate at which these panels are being installed around the country, India is expected to generate an enormous amount of waste over the next 20 years. In fact, India is expected to become one of the top five leading photovoltaic waste producers worldwide by 2050. Now is the right time for it to install clear policy directives, well-established recycling strategies, and greater collaboration, so that it doesn't find itself caught unprepared against a new problem in the future.

Anjali Taneja is Senior Policy Specialist and Lead of Cross-Sectoral Initiatives and Khushboo Garg is Consultant with the CSTEP's Strategic Studies Sector.

THE GIST

- India has the world's fourth highest solar PV deployment. The installed solar capacity was nearly 62GW in November 2022. This augurs a colossal amount of solar PV waste.
- India's challenge is the growing informal handling of PV waste. Only about 20% of the waste is recovered and the rest is treated informally. As a result, the waste often accumulates at landfills, which pollute the surroundings.
- India is expected to generate an enormous amount of PV waste over the next 20 years.

HC summons records of engineer who got canal repaired for ₹5.02 crore in three days

He had claimed to have got the laborious work done when the entire country was under COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has summoned records related to the rejection of sanction for conducting an investigation against an executive engineer who had issued a work order without inviting tender when the entire country was under COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020, and claimed to have got the laborious

works of repair of a canal done at a cost of ₹5.02 crore in just three days.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order on a petition filed by one Nage Gowda of Krishnarajapet in Mandya district.

The court pointed out from the official records that K. Srinivas, the then executive engineer (now retired) of the Hemavati Left Bank Canal unit, had issued the work order on March 27, 2020, for the construction of a retaining wall to a waste weir *halla*, improvements to waste weirs, and improvement to sluice canal to one P.K. Shivaramu, the contractor.

This was done by availing of the provision of exemption from inviting the tender under the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act when the entire country was under total lockdown from March 24, 2020, and no work was being carried out in the country, the court noted.

The contractor had claimed that he completed the laborious works in three days and submitted a bill for ₹5.02 crore, and the bill, on being approved by the executive engineer, was immediately cleared on March 31, it said.

The petitioner had lodged a private complaint against the executive engineer and others before a trial court, which had ordered for investigation. However, the government had rejected the request for sanction for investigation made by the investigating officer on the ground that a similar case was pending before the Lokayukta for inquiry.

"It shocks as to how the competent authority declined to grant sanction when the proceedings before the Lokayukta was already closed," the court said while observing that the then executive engineer had "not bartered away his money or the competent authority, who has rejected sanction, has not lost his money. What is bartered away is public money".

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my client has agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owner SMT.CHANDRAKANTHA W/o Sri.H.B.Gangadhar, residing at: No.6, Thulasithota Road, Balepet Cross, Bangalore - 560 053.

If any person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule property by the aforesaid owner, they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing, along with the photo copies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the vacant residential property bearing Municipal No.28, PID No.27-90-28, measuring on the East 35ft 6 Inches; on the West 39ft 6 Inches; on the North 46ft 8 Inches and on the South 46ft 8 Inches, together with 6ft wide passage thereon, situated at Subramanaya Swamy Temple Street, 5th Cross, Kumara Park West, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Site No.8
West by : Site No.6, New No.6/26
North by : Property No.1 facing upper pipeline belongs to Sri.Kishanlal Phoolchand Lunia;
South by : Property No.27 owned by Smt.Lalitha Devi & others.

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

BBMP Budget approved by State govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government recently approved the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) budget at ₹11,524 crore.

The Budget was presented by BBMP Special Commissioner for Finance Jayaram Raipura on March 2. The BBMP is allowed to raise the Budget size by ₹367 crore by the State government according to its order. It will likely be revised if the incumbent BJP doesn't return to power in May 2023.

The earlier Budget said the total receipts of BBMP during 2023-24 would be ₹7,070.11 crore while the total Centre-State grants would be ₹4,093.86 crore. While the total receipts would be ₹11,163.97 crore, the total expenditure would be ₹11,157.83 crore, thereby resulting in a surplus of ₹6.14 crore. However, the Budget uses a whopping ₹1,375 crore towards cost escalation of projects, coming amidst allegations by the Congress that the BJP-ruled State government was resorting to inflating project costs.

Further, a large chunk of this is being funded by raising long-term loans from the Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation. The Budget allocates "additional grants" of ₹965 crore for nine projects, most of them grade separators, of which ₹770 crore will be financed through loans.

OCI/PIO candidates can apply for UGCET-23

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Provisions have been made in the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) portal for OCI (Overseas Citizen of India)/PIO (People of Indian Origin) candidates to register their names and apply online for UGCET-2023.

S. Ramya, executive director, KEA, said on Wednesday that candidates should apply between March 30 and April 5. This provision has been made as per the interim orders of the High Court and subject to the further orders/ notifications of the State/Central governments, and orders of the Supreme Court, she said.

CBSE/CISCE/IGCSE students, who have not completed the declaration, are allowed to modify by making necessary changes in the registration module from March 31 to April 3.

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 • 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 • 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 • 2335700

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF IV ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT MAYO HALL, BANGALORE (CCH- 21)
O.S. No. 25841/2021

Plaintiff :
M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd.
Having its Regd. Off at Mythri Centre, No. 4, 101, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068. Reptd. by its Manager : Sri. Pramodh.G, S/o. Gurumallappa.B.

Defendants :
1) Mr. Syed Khazim Pasha,
Aged Major,
S/o. Mr. Syed Khazim,
2) Mr. Syed Khader Pasha,
Aged about 39 years,
S/o. Mr. Syed Khazim Pasha,
Both Residing at : No. 54, HM Green Oak, 3rd Floor, Jayamahal Ward, Benson Town, Anjaneya Swami Temple, Bangalore- 032

WHEREAS the plaintiffs have instituted the above suit against you both seeking to recover a sum of Rs.10,35,249/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Nine Only) together with future interest at 15.75%, you are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by pleader on the 29/05/2023 to answer the same, failing which the suit/application will be disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on 21/03/2023.

By Order of the Hon. Court,
Dy. Registrar
City Civil Court
Mayohall Unit Bangalore

ALTAF HASAN, Advocate,
No.60, G-3, Ground Floor,
M.M. Complex, Chikka Bazaar Street, Tasker Town,
Shivajinagar, Bangalore-051;
Ph: 7892117565/ 9902928290

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 13th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYO HALL, BANGALORE. (CCH-22)
O.S. No. 25220 of 2022

Plaintiff :
M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd
Having its Regd. Off at Mythri Centre, No. 4, 101, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068.
Reptd. by its Debt Collection Manager : Sri. Pramodh.G, S/o.Gurumallappa.B

Defendant :
Mr. Johnraj Kumar C,
Aged about 45 Years, S/o. Johnraj Chowri Nathan
R/at No. 122, Zion Gate Cottage, 2nd Main, New Binnay Layout, Binny pet Opp ETA Mall, Bangalore-560 023.

WHEREAS the plaintiffs have instituted the above suit against you seeking to recover a sum of **Rs. 7,84,824/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Eighty Four Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Four Only)** together with future interest at **12.75% p.a,** you are hereby summoned to appear in the court of the **13th Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bangalore (CCH-22)** in person or by pleader on the **25th day of May, 2023** to answer the same, failing which the suit/application will be disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on 20.03.2023.

By Order of the Hon. Court,
Dy. Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayo hall unit, Bangalore

ALTAF HASAN, Advocate
R No. 474/1993, 60, G-3,
M.M. Complex, Chikka Bazar Road, Tasker Town, Shivaji Nagar, Bangalore- 560051

REAL ESTATE

BSNL HOUSING Society premium Residential & Commercial Sites near Blore Intl Airport on 6 Lane NH-207 Rs.1100/- Sft, Open for general public. Call: 9071534000.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ANANYA B S** D/o Late B M Shivalinga, aged about 25 years, R/at No. 25, 5th Main, 7th Cross, RHCS Layout, Annapoorneshwarinagar, Nagarabhavi 2nd, Bangalore-560091, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ANANYA B S** to **ANANYA DARSHAN,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **ANANYA DARSHAN** only, vide affidavit dated 28-03-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **K.C. GOWTHAMI** at Bangalore.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 28th ACCJ. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL BANGALORE (CCH-29)
O.S. NO. 25093 of 2022

Plaintiff :
M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd.
Having its Regd. Off at Mythri Centre, No.4, 101, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068.
Reptd. by its Debt Collection Manager : Sri. Pramodh.G, S/o.Gurumallappa.B

Defendant :
Ms. Prema,
W/o. Mr. Raju Aged about 45 years, Residing at No. 4/7, 4th A Cross, Kathriguppe Main Road, Vivekananda Nagar, Near Karur Vysya Bank, Bangalore- 560 085.

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT

WHEREAS the plaintiffs have instituted the above suit against you seeking to recover a sum of **Rs.12,45.544/- (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Five Hundred and Forty Four Only)** together with future interest at 10.99% P.A. you are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by pleader on the 23th day of May, 2023 to answer the same, failing which the suit/application will be disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on **23.03.2023.**

Bengaluru.
Dated:

By Order of The Hon. Court
Deputy. Registrar
City Civil Court, Mayo hall unit, Bangalore

ALTAF HASAN,
Advocate for Plaintiff,
60, G-3, M.M. Complex, Tasker Town, Chikka Bazaar Road, Shivajinagar, Bangalore- 560051

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ADITYA** ARUN MALLECHA residing at #129,33rd cross,11th main,4th block jayanagar Bangalore 560011 have changed my name from ADITYA A MALLECHA to ADITYA ARUN MALLECHA vide affidavit dated 29–03–2023, sworn to before N. Nagappa ,Advocate and Notary,Bengaluru.

I, **H.ARUNA,** wife of Vijayakumar.S. served in Army EX No.2601901H, Rank Naik, residing at No.354, Old Oriental Line, Coromandel Post, KGF 563118 have corrected the name from H.Aruna to Aruna.H. before notary S.Thangaraj for the purpose of producing the same before officials of Madras Regiment Wellington to change in part II Order as Aruna .H.

I, **VIJAYAKUMAR.S.** served in Army EX No.2601901H, Rank Naik, residing at No.354, Old Oriental Line, Coromandel Post, KGF 563118 have corrected my son from V.Shakthi Karan to Shakthi Karan.V. before notary S.Thangaraj for the purpose of producing the same before officials of Madras Regiment, Wellington to change in part II Order as Shakthi Karan.V.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF IV ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT MAYOHALL BANGALORE (CCH-21)
O.S. NO. 25371 of 2021

Plaintiff
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Regd. Off at Mythri Centre, No. 4, 101, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068. Reptd. by its Manager: Sri. Pramodh.G, S/o. Gurumallappa.B

Defendant
Mr. Asif Ayoob Khan, Aged about 34 years, S/o. Mr. Ayoob Khan, Residing at D-Bhomik House No. 4, 113/2.B, 12th Cross, Munnekolala, Marathahalli Post, Bangalore.

WHEREAS the plaintiffs have instituted the above suit against you seeking to recover a sum of Rs.3,74,985/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty Five Only) together with future interest at 11.99%, you are hereby summoned to appear before the 4th Addl.City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayo Hall, Bangalore; court in person or by pleader on the 20th day of April, 2023 to answer te same, failing which the suit/application will be disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on **21/03/2023.**

By Order of The Hon. Court
Dr. Registrar
City Civil Court, Mayo hall unit, Bangalore.

ALTAF HASAN, Advocate
No.60, G-3, Ground Floor
M.M.Complex, Tasker Town, Shivajinagar, Bangalore- 051:
Ph: 7892117565/9902928290.

LEGAL NOTICE

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL- 1, B.S.N.L. BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR, TELEPHONE HOUSE, RAJBHAVAN ROAD, BENGALURU- 560001
O.A. NO. 94/2022

BETWEEN :
M/S ICICI BANK LIMITED, Having its brach office at The Senate IBC, Ulsoor Road, Yellappa Garden, Yellappa Chetty Layout, Shivanchetti Garden, Bengaluru- 560008
...APPLICANT

AND
1. MR. ARUNKUMAR. A.
Aged about 45 years,
Son of Mr. Karegowda Anjaneya House No. 1, 5th Cross, Subbanna Garden, Vijayanagar, BENGALURU-560040.
Also at
MR. ARUNKUMAR. A.
Proprietor of CABS DEN, No. 16/4/5/1, Railway Station Area, Near Water Tank, Rayadurg, Ananthpur, ANDHRA PRADESH-515865.
.....DEFENDANTS

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an application Under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 1,04,87,181.19/- (Rupees One Crore Four Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand One Hundred Eighty One Paisa Nineteen Only)** together with current and future interest and other relief's. The above Defendant is therefore, hereby directed to before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorized agents in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 28/06/2023 at 10:30 A.M., as to why relief's prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this tribunal on this 18th day of March,2023

Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-I
Bangalore

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-44)
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 696 OF 2021

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd.
a body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed as a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007 and having its Branch office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 4/10, 1st Floor Mythri Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Road, Bangalore- 560068 and represented by its POA Holder and collection Manager Mr. Pramodh G S/o Gurumallappa, Age : 45 Years **...PLAINTIFF**

And
Mr. Kumar Abhishek
...DEFENDANT

To,
Defendant
Mr. Kumar Abhishek aged about 39 years, Son of Ramakant Tiwari R/at. No 363, 5th Cross, 2nd Main Near Church, Nanjapp Reddy Layout Ramamurthynagar, Bangalore- 560016.

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of **Rs. 4,65,597 (Rupees Four Lakhs Sixty Five Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety Seven Only)** as on **28.05.2018** together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court, in person or by a pleader on **30/05/2023** at **11.00 am** to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined exparte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this **18th day of March, 2023.**

By order of the Court
Assistant Registrar
City Civil Court,
Bangalore

Advocates for Petitioner
S.M. ANEES AHAMED,
B.M. KUSHALAPPA,
Advocates
No. 4(10/2), West Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore- 560001.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XLI ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-42)
O.S. NO. 500/2021
Hg. 07.06.2023

Between : M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007 having its head office at M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd., No.1, Shobha Pearl, 2nd Floor, MG Road, Commissariat Road, Bangalore-560025, and branch office at 4/10, Mythri Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative Mr. Pramodh. G **...Plaintiff**

And :
Mr. Satish P **...Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. Satish P
S/o. Mr Puttaramaiah Venkatappa, Aged about 44 Years, Residing at 21, 1st Floor, Near MSV Cables, Amruthahalli, Sahakarnagar Post, Bengaluru-560 092.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 10,63,921/-** along with interest at the rate of **24% P.A.** against you, and you are summoned to appear before the **XLI Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (CCH-42),** in person or by a pleader, on the day of **07.06.2023** at **11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 17th day of March, 2023 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 28TH ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS COURT, MAYO HALL, BANGALORE (CCH- 58)
O.S. NO. 25843 OF 2021

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd.
Having its Regd. Off at Mythri Centre, No. 4, 101, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068. Reptd. by its Manager : Sri. Pramodh.G, S/o. Gurumallappa. B.
...Plaintiff

VERSUS
Mr. Love Kumar,
Aged about 42 years
S/o. Sri. Suri Harveer Singh, Residing at 5 S Nagaraj, No.16/6, Mathru Layout, Near Sai Mandhira, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore- 064
...Defendant

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT

Mr. Love Kumar,
S/o. Sri. Suri Harveer Singh, Residing at 5 S Nagaraj, No. 16/6, Mathru Layout, Near Sai Mandhira, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore- 064

WHEREAS the plaintiffs have instituted the above suit against you seeking to recover a Sum of **Rs.13,90,288/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Ninety Two Hundred Eighty Eight Only)** together with future interest at 11.49%, you are hereby summoned to appear in this Court of the 28th Addl. City Civil & Sessions Court, Mayo Hall, Bangalore, in person or by pleader on the 23th day of May, 2023 to answer the same, failing which the suit/application will be disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on 23/03/2023.

By Order of the Hon. Court,
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court,
Mayohall Unit Bangalore

SD/-
ALTAF HASAN, Advocate,
No. 60, G-3, Ground Floor,
M.M. Complex, Chikka Bazaar Street, Tasker Town,
Shivajinagar, Bangalore-051

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **G Prakash**, Aged 41 Years, S/o, Gangaiah, Residing at No. 12, Gowdagere, Kunigal, Tumkur-572130 have changed my Son name from **Ravi Teja G P** to **Tanvik G P** for all future purposes vide affidavit number IN-KA19538-996687442V dated 21.03.2023 before notary Aruna V Bengaluru (advocate).

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that, my client **Sri. S.D. Bandi, S/o. Sri. D.Y. Uppar,** aged about 39 years, residing at No.148/6-1, 5th Cross, 9th Main, RMV Extension, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore -560080 has lost the **original Possession Certificate No.SWI/PR56/69-70 dt:16-05-1970** issued by the Block Development Officer, Bangalore South Taluk while in transit. In this connection, my client has lodged a police complaint to the Karnataka State Police (U/s 155 CrPC) Lost Article Report Serial No.508716, Police Unit : Bangalore City, Lost Report No. 0508716/2023, dt:21-03-2023. Hence, if anybody finds the said Document please inform/return to the below address within **7 DAYS.**

Srinivasa S.A., Advocate
No.79/B, 7th Main, 50 feet Road,
BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore-560 050.
Mob: 9008003449
E-mail : srinilegals@gmail.com
Place : Bangalore Date : 29-03-2023

THE HINDU

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

Bid No.: E-110/2022-23 **E-TENDER NOTICE** **Date: 27.03.2023**

E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the president of India for the supply of following items. Only E-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the folowing sequence S.No. Tender No. (Due Date). Description and Quantity. Sl.No.: 1, 05221151A, (11.04.2023), **MCAW Wirees 1.2 MM.,** Part No. 76114065, 11000 Kg., Sl.No.: 2, 05221155A, (11.04.2023), **(I) Rectangular Die Punch Kit Size 6x70 MM.,** Part No. 72340708, 25 Set, (ii) **Rectangular Die Punch Kit Size 5x70 MM.,** Part No. 72340710, 24 Set, Sl.No.: 3, 05231104, (11.04.2023), **MS Plates 18x2000x6300,** Part No. 90414214, 40 MT., Sl.No.: 4, 05231107, (13.04.2023), **MS Plates 8x2500x8000,** Part No. 90421188, 30 MT., Sl.No.: 5, 05231028, (13.04.2023), **Digital Outside Micrometer,** Part No. 72580069, 04 Nos., Sl.No.: 6, 05221062C, (17.04.2023), **(I) Cotton Hand Gloves,** Part No. 75040761, 7697 Pairs, (ii) **Cut Resistance Hand Gloves,** Part No. 75321609, 8660 Pairs, Sl.No.: 7, 05231101, (20.04.2023), **MS Plates 60x1250x5000,** Part No. 90412679, 25 MT, Sl.No.: 8, 05231106, (20.04.2023), **MS Plates 12x2500x6300,** Part No. 90420135, 40 MT, Sl.No.: 9, 05231108, (20.04.2023), **MS Chequered Plates 5x1250x5000,** Part No. 90421012, 20 MT, Sl.No.: 10, 10211324P, (13.04.2023), **Support,** Part No. 16140990, 25 Nos., Sl.No.: 11, 10222995A, (18.04.2023), **Turbo Inlet Scroll Asm,** Part No. 16080701, 279 Nos., Sl.No.: 12, 10221180C, (19.04.2023), **Thrust Washer,** Part No. 16130364, 5297 Nos., Sl.No.: 13, 10223071, (20.04.2023), **Kit Gasket Over Speed Housing,** Part No. 16171597, 110 Nos., Sl.No.: 14, 09221480, (12.04.2023), **UIC Cable to** PL No. 29600443, 2190 MTR, Sl.No.: 15, 08231007, Advertise Tender, (13.04.2023), **Core & Header ASM,** PL No. 17453252, Qty-12, Sl.No.: 16, 07221068A, (10.04.2023), **Hi-grind Syn 5 or its equivalent fully synthetic cutting Oil,** PL No. 80096256, Qty-420 Kg., Sl.No.: 17, 01231004, (12.04.2023), **Ring Carrier,** PL No. 16121508, 100 Nos., All other terms & conditions of the tender remain unchanged. The details of above tenders are available on **www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** and **www.ireps.gov.in. Corrigendum:1,** Bid No. E-105, 09221398A, **Circuit Modul-TDP to** PL No. 18120179, **Revision:** 1, **Details of Corrigendum:** The date of opening of tender has been revised and now the same will be opened on 10.04.2023 instead of 20.03.2023, **Corrigendum:2,** Bid No. E-105, 09221399, **Circuit Modul HVRECPT to** PL No. 18120180, **Revision:** 1, **Details of Corrigendum:** The date of opening of tender has been revised and now the same will be opened on 10.04.2023 instead of 31.03.2023, **Corrigendum:3,** Bid No. E-105, 09221315, **Auxiliary Generator to** PL No. 18040020, **Revision:** 1, **Details of Corrigendum:** The date of opening of tender has been revised and now the same will be opened on 05.04.2023 instead of 27.03.2023, **Corrigendum:4,** Bid No. E-104, 09221401, **Circuit Modul-PRG 301 to** PL No. 18120799, **Revision:** 1, **Details of Corrigendum:** The date of opening of tender has been revised and now the same will be opened on 12.04.2023 instead of 21.03.2023, **Corrigendum:5,** Bid No. E-105, 09221402, **Circuit Modul-COM 304 to** PL No. 18120817, **Revision:** 1, **Details of Corrigendum:** The date of opening of tender has been revised and now the same will be opened on 13.04.2023 instead of 27.03.2023, **Corrigendum:6,** Bid No. E-105, 09231034, **Panel Modul-ASC 300 to** PL No. 18120015, **Revision:** 1, **Details of Corrigendum:** The date of opening of tender has been revised and now the same will be opened on 13.04.2023 instead of 03.04.2023, **Corrigendum:7,** Bid No. E-105, 09221395, **Panel Module-TLF 301 to** PL No. 18120118, **Revision:** 1, **Details of Corrigendum:** The date of opening of tender has been revised and now the same will be opened on 14.04.2023 instead of 04.04.2023, **Corrigendum:8,** Bid No. E-105, 09221397, **Display Assembly to** PL No. 18120155, **Revision:** 1, **Details of Corrigendum:** The date of opening of tender has been revised and now the same will be opened on 14.04.2023 instead of 28.03.2023, **Corrigendum:9,** Bid No. E-108, 02231035A, **MISC Hardware Items Kit,** Part No. 29408489, 29408490, 29408507, **Revision:** 2, **Details of Corrigendum:** Existing Due Date 23.03.2023, Revised Due Date 03.04.2023, **Corrigendum:10,** Bid No. E-105, 05235001, **Details of Corrigendum:** Existing Due Date 20.03.2023, Revised Due Date 31.03.2023, **Corrigendum:11,** Bid No. E-104, 05231002, **Details of Corrigendum:** Existing Due Date 16.03.2023, Revised Due Date 30.03.2023.

P.R./BLW/S-118 **PCMM**

/blwvaranasi "Website: www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

Deputy Commissioner Yadgir

Mini Vidhan Soudha, Yadgir. Pin - 585202

INVITATION FOR TENDER

SECTION-1

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF TENDER FOR HIRE OF IT EQUIPMENT, PRINTER & PERIPHERALS FOR ELECTIONS 2023

The DC & DEO YADGIR (hereafter, DEO) hereby invites tenders under e-tendering system from Registered Companies / Agencies registered under Karnataka Shops & Establishment Actfor supply of HIRE OF PERSONAL COMPUTER, LAPTOP, PRINTER & PERIPHERALS, as detailed in Annexure-I of this Tender, as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, there under (Under Two Cover System). Only those who have supplied similar Hire, Installation & Maintenance (50% of the quantity of this tender) to Govt. Departments, Institutions, Autonomous Bodies in last 3 years and those who OWN video cameras as per specification only need to apply. Those with Annual Turnover for last three years i.e., 2019-20, 2020-21 & 2021-22, not less than Rs. 15 Lakhs per annum or total cumulative turnover Rs. 50 Lakhs for last three Years are eligible to participate in this Tender.

The term "PURCHASER" for the purpose of placing the order, accepting / rejecting the goods, payments and sending samples, for testing by the DEO and any other authority authorized by the Purchaser, who are bound by the Contract in pursuance of this Tender, while purchasing HIRE, INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE.

a)The term "TENDERER" means the Registered Video Professionals, participating in this tender. The term "TENDERER" refers to the successful Tenderer who has entered into an agreement with DEO for the purpose of supplying HIRE, INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE,as mentioned in this tender.

b) The DEO Yadgir District shall be the Tendering Authority for the purpose of this tender.

1.Tenderers are to quote for ALLHIRE, INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE,listed in Schedule-II Annexure I. 2.Tenders of only those Tenderers' who fulfil the Terms and Conditions of this tender will be considered for evaluation. Defective and incomplete documents / samples of the Hire, Installation & Maintenance found not in conformity with the specifications or found defective either physically or analytically, will be rejected.

Schedule of Events

Commencement of download of e-Tender Form from website- https://eproc.Karnataka.gov.in	25/03/2023
Last Date for Queries on or before	01/04/2023 till 5:00 p.m.
Pre-bid Meeting.	29/03/2023 at 11:00 a.m.
Last Date for Uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform on or before	01/04/2023 till 5:00 p.m
Opening of Technical Bid	02/04/2023 till 5:30 p.m.
Date of Original Document Verification.	Will be done on the uploaded documents at e-portal.
Submission of Samples	02/04/2023 at 11:00 am
Opening of Financial Bid	03/04/2023 at 11:00 am
Approximate value of tender	Rs. 15.00 Lakhs

Venue: Office of the DEO Yadgir District, Address: DEO DOC Building Mini Vidhan Soudha Yadgir Pin - 585202

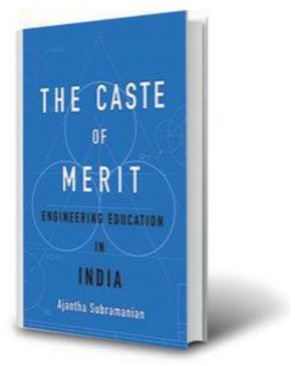
Note : Only Technically qualified tenderers will be called for 10% Personnel & Equipment Verification

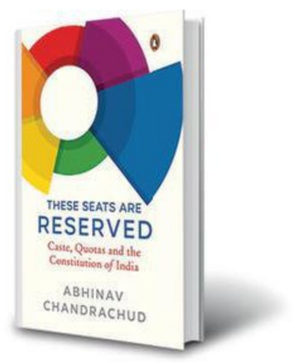
DIP/Yadagiri/560/K.S.M.C&A/2022-23

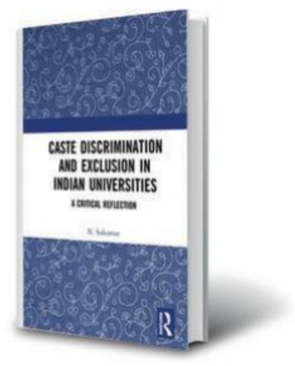
SD/- Deputy Commissioner Yadgir

BIBLIOGRAPHY

/ISTOCKPHOTO







How caste discrimination permeates the language of meritocracy on campus

Much of the debate on reservation continues to be around the notion of a 'deserving' candidate rather than historical wrongs perpetuated by the caste system. Several writers have documented the forms of caste-based inequalities in higher education

Barathi Nakkeeran

"People think casteism only comes in the form of beatings or open abuse, but nowadays, it also comes in the form of subtle gestures," Dr. Lakshmanan, an associate professor at the Madras Institute for Development Studies, tells me while discussing the nature of caste discrimination in higher education institutions. N. Sukumar too writes about the diverse manifestations of caste discrimination in his book, *Caste Discrimination and Exclusion in Indian Universities: A Critical Reflection*.

He documents how professors threaten to cut Dalit students' attendance and coerce them into doing domestic chores, among many other practices that cannot always be proven to be caste discrimination. This invisibility frequently creates silos of suffering, in which Dalit students are gaslit into thinking that their struggles are unreal, and that these institutions are too modern for something as regressive as casteism to exist within their walls. Collectivity is snatched, and caste-based structural inequalities are disguised as individual, subjective experiences.

The reservation lens

Higher education institutions are frequently portrayed as being immune to caste. Upper-caste students and faculty are assumed to be casteless by virtue of their modernity. But casteism has also reinvented itself, in large part through the language of meritocracy. The social logic of merit is arranged in a way that the same groups of people benefit from it that are already empowered by the caste system. In her book *The Caste of Merit, an ethnographic study of IIT Madras*, Ajantha Subramanian writes that the relationship between individual merit and caste networks often go unnoticed.

In this context, she writes, opening up institutions such as IITs is met with opposition not in the name of caste, but in the name of preserving merit. Merit offers caste a new path, because of which caste is only seen through reservations while the privilege that dominant castes possess is unrecognised as capital.

In his recently published *These Seats are Reserved*, advocate Abhinav Chandrachud describes reservations as unique legal provisions that emerged out of India's social context. He traces the history of the need for reservations and the social life of these legal provisions.

He notes that the opposition to reservations in the Indian Constituent Assembly was primarily on two grounds: first, that it works against efficiency, and second, that it was regressive to claim that caste still exists in a free, modern nation. These arguments are not relics of the past and are still used to contest the use and need of reservations. Avatthi Ramaiah, a professor at the Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), says that without reservations these so-called progressive spaces would be filled solely by upper caste students.

Even today, much of the attention around reservation continues to be around the notion of a 'deserving' candidate rather than the historical wrongs perpetuated by the caste system. As a professor who has taught at TISS for over two decades, Dr. Ramaiah has seen generations of Dalit students come and go with a range of experiences. He says children from upper caste backgrounds come with severely casteist notions that their families instill in them, which they try to impose on their Dalit classmates. This is a complex social problem that reservations alone cannot cure; however, reservations are the bare minimum.

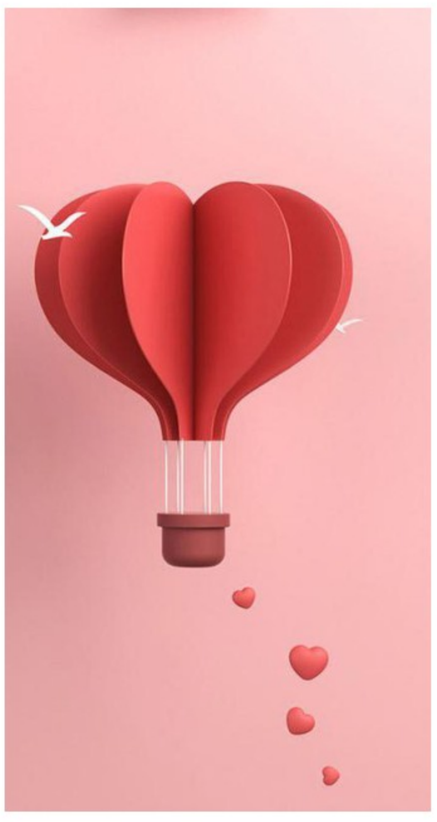
The prevalence of verbal taunts

The perception that reservation dilutes merit often leads to harmful jokes, slurs, gossip, and isolation of students among their peers. Existing legal remedies often cannot respond to these intricacies. Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe cells mandated by the University Grants Commission are frequently defunct; where they do exist, they are not responsive to complaints. Remedies such as provisions under The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 are challenging to access. The lawyers I spoke to said it is difficult to prove caste discrimination in court because the register of the court often cannot recognise the subtle and nuanced nature of casteism that occurs in these so-called progressive spaces. Furthermore, caste-aware people in the legal system are just as rare as those in educational institutions.

Finding solutions

There is a need for remedies that are attentive to not only the external violence, but the internal trauma, the crushing loneliness, and the damage to self-esteem that casteism creates. Dr. Lakshmanan, for instance, points to the need for a space that is not just about protests but a safe space for Dalit students to share their problems – a circle of friends. For real change to occur, the "culprits have to also be sensitised, not just victims and survivors". At TISS, all first-year students must attend foundational courses that touch upon various aspects of caste and gender discrimination. Dr. Ramaiah has been teaching these classes for many years, and he says that carefully facilitated classroom discussions like these have a huge effect on helping upper-caste students unlearn their casteist ideas. Several other academics insist curriculum changes are critical to creating caste-aware institutional spaces. However, there is an over-dependence on individual faculty members from SC/ST community members to resolve caste discrimination-related issues on campus. These remedies must not be a burden on the already marginalised, they must be institutionalised and smoothened in a way that they become intrinsic to higher education and inequity becomes unimaginable.

The writer is a researcher based in New Delhi



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Miss K. S. Latha, XI standard, Church Park Convent, Madras, wants to know whether the sentence 'Much water has flown under the bridge' is correct."

"It is not correct. 'Much water has flowed under the bridge' is correct. Flow-flowed-flowed. Fly-flew-flown. The idiom means that a lot of time has passed and many things have happened.

Much water has flowed under the bridge since we last met."

"Mr. Premanand Vunnava of Pidapparru Pet wants to know the meaning of 'in lieu of.'"

" 'In lieu of means 'in the place of, 'instead of'.

In lieu of notice, I had to pay one month's salary to my institution."

"Mr. L. Ganapathiraman, Coimbatore Medical College, Coimbatore, wants to know whether the following sentences are correct:

(a) She knew me since 19 years, (b) She has been married since 22 years."

"Neither is correct. 'Since' is used to refer to action that started at some point of time in the past and continues till now. Since + point of time is mainly used with the perfect tense. That is, you can't say 'I know her since 1980'. You must say 'I have known her since 1980'. Also you can't say, 'I have known her since three months'. 'Three months' is a period of time. You can say 'I have known her since I960'.

When you want to refer to a period of time continuing upto the present, you use 'for'. In such contexts, 'for' should be preceded by a verb in the perfect tense.

I have been ill for the last one month.
She has known me for several years.
They have been married for 22 years.

If you use 'since', you must specify a point of time in the past. If you use 'for', specify the length of time.

"When did you come?"
"Last night."
"What time?"
"10 o'clock."
"So you have been here since 10 o'clock last night."
"Yes."
"It is 10 o'clock now. So you have been here for 12 hours."
"What are you doing?"
"I are cooking."
"How long have you been cooking?"
"I have been cooking since 9 o'clock."
"It is 11 o'clock now. So you have been cooking for two hours."

Published in The Hindu on June 23, 1987

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On the occasion of his 170th birthday, a quiz on the post-impressionist painter Vincent van Gogh who is regarded as one of the most influential figures in Western art history

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Simple one to begin with. What was van Gogh's nationality?

QUESTION 2
Name the type of Japanese prints that he collected and which inspired his own art.

QUESTION 3
Name the painting that the artist is certain to have sold during his career before his suicide in 1890.

QUESTION 4
In Akira Kurosawa's surreal film *Dreams*, which Oscar-winning filmmaker played the troubled painter?

QUESTION 5
He is said to have painted seven of these similar paintings of which five are in museums, one is in a private collection and another was lost during World War II. What specific set?

QUESTION 6
Vincent was keen on setting up an artists' community at his house in Arles. Name the only artist to take up the offer.

QUESTION 7
In 1990, whose portrait fetched $82.5 million, a record price for a van Gogh work at auction?

Visual question:
Name this work that the Van Gogh museum in Amsterdam considers as probably the genius' very last painting. VAN GOGH MUSEUM

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The Terracotta structures depict the armies of this Chinese emperor. **Ans: Qin Shi Huang; he is the first emperor of a unified China**
2. This type of art is known by this name. **Ans: Funerary art; it was buried with the purpose of protecting the emperor in his afterlife**
3. This is situated underneath a 76-meter-tall tomb mound shaped like a truncated pyramid and is located in Lintong District, Xi'an, Shaanxi province of China. **Ans: Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor**
4. The definition of the Hellenistic period. **Ans: In classical antiquity, the Hellenistic period covers the time in Mediterranean history after Classical Greece, between the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC to the death of Cleopatra VII**
5. The other historic artifact that can draw a crowd by name alone. **Ans: The remnants of the wreck of the RMS Titanic**
Visual: These warrior figures created by French artist Prune Nourry in 2013 spread this message of equality. **Ans: Terracotta Daughters, gender equality**
Early Birds: Arnasree Chakraborty| K. N. Viswanathan

Word of the day

Thingamabob:
something unspecified whose name is either forgotten or not known

Synonyms: gimmick, gismo, doodad, doohickey, thingamajig, widget

Usage: *Our intern got us one of those thingamabobs which you can use to take a selfie.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/thingamabobpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: / ˈθɪŋ ə məˌbɒb /

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

‘IIMB wants to use online education to create more impact in sectors that require better managerial skills’

Ahead of its golden jubilee celebrations, IIMB director speaks on the past, present, and future of the institution

INTERVIEW

RISHIKESHA T. KRISHNAN

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

One of the pioneer institutions of business education in the country, the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) is celebrating its golden jubilee year. Ahead of the commencement of celebrations from March 31, Rishikesha T. Krishnan, director, IIMB, spoke to *The Hindu* on the evolution of the institution.

Excerpts from the conversation:

How would you trace the evolution of courses in IIMB over 50 years?

The institute has successfully adapted to the changing economic environment and needs of the country. Initially focused on creating good managerial talent for the public sector, later by the 1980s, the institute trained students for the private sector as liberalisation began. By the 1990s, the flagship programme had adapted to provide high quality business management education for students going to MNCs, big private Indian companies, and family businesses. In 1998, we began offering a weekend postgraduate program for software management (much before Y2K inflection), and in subsequent years, added a Center for Public Policy (2001), a one-year MBA programme (2009), and a postgraduate programme in business analytics in 2020. Our Ph.D. programmes are rigorous.

Can you elaborate on the international collaborations of IIMB?

The international collaborations increased when the country opened up its economy, 1990 onwards. Our international student exchange is the strongest pillar of our internationalisation efforts. While 150 students from here go out, around 100 students from 35 countries come here. Our International Masters Programme for Managers (IMPM) started in 1995 (collaborative programmes with other countries) is another pillar. We are also the only Indian member in Global Advanced Network for Management (GNAM), a network of 32 prominent business schools from across the world. We also have research collaborations with other countries.

How has international recruitment and placement trends changed over the years?

Our students began to get international jobs in the late 1990s and for almost a decade before the 2007-08 global financial crises, global banks and financial institutions were hiring students directly from here. There has been a decline in the trend after 2008 as the financial institutions were our main recruiters. However, with the always growing Indian economy, the job opportunities here are quite robust. Even though the number of students has increased, that has not really affected our placements as our curriculum is fairly well aligned with market needs.

What are the steps being taken to ensure social and economic inclusion at IIMB?

The government reservation policy has evolved and we have too. But we have gone beyond reservation to ensure that there is geographical diversity on our campus. One of the first steps we took here was to set up a conducive learning environment for physically-disabled students. When it comes to economic inclusion, all our students get placed with very good jobs and if they have taken loans, they can repay it within two to three years after completing the programme. Further, for those who do not want to take loans due to other challenges, we ensure adequate scholarships even from external sources like Central and State governments as well as private foundations. While it is not perfect, there is a fair amount of support available for all students.

What is your vision for the future of IIMB?

We want to use online education to create more impact in sectors which need better managerial skills. As MSMEs are in a way the backbone of employment, we want to use online platforms to create courses which help them enhance their competitiveness. We also want to help youngsters, who do not know how to go about their entrepreneurial dreams, develop the capabilities with an online degree programme whose focus will be on entrepreneurship and digital technology. We hope to launch these programmes during the golden jubilee year.

Former ISRO chief recalls his time at IIMB almost five decades ago

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

K. Radhakrishnan, former chairman of ISRO

“It was exhilarating. I was already buoyant of getting back to school after a few years of work, backed up by the study leave granted by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for a sought-after programme. Then came the warm-hearted welcome at Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) for its first batch of PGPs, famously known as the premier batch or the ‘guinea pigs’,” said K. Radhakrishnan, former chairman, ISRO and an alumnus of IIMB, recalling his first day at the esteemed institution.

As IIMB looks forward to its golden jubilee celebrations this year, Mr. Radhakrishnan, who was among the first graduating batch of IIMB (1976), took a trip down the memory lane to share his experiences at the business school.

He recalled how his first day was at a makeshift campus in a heritage building at Langford Garden where there were around 50 faculty members who were ready to train 55 engineers as prospective professional managers.

He said that during his two-year-long time at IIMB, he significantly learnt how to look at situations in systematic and holistic manner with a long-time horizon. He also said that his perspectives and vision bloomed at IIMB.

“My biggest takeaway from IIMB life was the lessons in institution-building. At that time, the new campus was in the conceptual stage. So essentially, what we learnt from there, which was not part of the curriculum, was how do you start an institution. This was a great lesson, seeing it happening there before us. One does not get it in the books or from classroom,” Mr. Radhakrishnan said.

When asked who his favourite faculty members were, he named Amiya Chakraborty (Quantitative Methods), Vijay Padki (Behavioural sciences), and S.K. Warrier (Personnel Management) among a long list of other professors.

Class X examination to begin tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Examination for class X will begin on Friday and this year, a total of 8,42,811 students have enrolled from 15,498 high schools.

The exam will be held in 3,3077 centres, and to avoid malpractices, the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board will depute 6,614 squads. The board said tight police security would be maintained at all examination centres. CCTV camera surveillance will be deployed at the main gates and corridors of all the centres. All types of electronic devices, including mobile phones, smartwatches, and earphones, are prohibited in examination centres.

The use of mobile phones is prohibited for officers and staff involved in security work and examination duty. Only the superintendent of the examination centre will be allowed to use basic mobile phones without cameras. KSRTC, BMTC, and other corporations will provide free bus service for students.

“Students should follow the dress code prescribed by the educational institutions. They can wear school uniforms in the centres. They must also follow the directions of the Supreme Court and the government on the dress code,” the board said.

Centenary celebrations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Madrasi Education Association, formed in 1923 and later renamed as Delhi Tamil Education Senior Secondary School, is celebrating its centenary year. As part of the celebrations, DTESS is organising an alumni meet on April 2 in Bengaluru.

According to a release, the Trust has about 8,000 alumni across the world registered on the website dtea-alumni.org. Thirty teachers and nine achievers will be felicitated at the event to be held at MLR Convention Centre, Brigade Millennium campus, J.P. Nagar 7th Phase, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. V. Rajaraman, Padma Bhushan awardee and Professor Emeritus with IISc, Bengaluru, will be felicitated.

For details, call Suresh Parthasarathy (9886040086), Parthasarathy Sudarsanam (9845076901) in Bengaluru, or T.V. Raghuraman (9176738575).

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, MAR. 30	
RISE 06:17	SET 18:31
RISE 13:05	SET 01:35
FRIDAY, MAR. 31	
RISE 06:17	SET 18:31
RISE 13:57	SET 02:22
SATURDAY, APR. 01	
RISE 06:16	SET 18:31
RISE 14:48	SET 03:07

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	25
Mysuru	36	23
Bengaluru	35	22

Bengaluru Today
35°C A warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will remain pleasant. Spell of thunderstorm with gusty winds may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C A warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will remain pleasant. Spell of thunderstorm with gusty winds may occur.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2023
All rights reserved.

3rd Year Anniversary

Auditor Sri. N.Rajan B.Com., F.C.A..
(14th March 1939 - 30th March 2020)
Founder Chairman, Amarjothi Group of Companies

Your life was a blessing,
Your memory a treasure...
You are loved beyond words
And missed beyond measure.

In Reverance & Remeberance

Smt. R. Saroja Rajan
Sri. R. Premchander & Smt. D.A. Kalpaja
Sri. R. Jaichander & Smt. J.Nandhini
Sri. V. Senthilnathan & Smt. S.Jayanthi
Grand Childrens and Staffs

AMARJOTHI GROUP OF COMPANIES
& N.RAJAN ASSOCIATES, TIRUPUR

CONCEPTS UNLIMITED

APPOINTMENT

Sree Siddaganga Education Society (R.)
Sree Siddaganga Math, Tumkur-572014

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION FOR ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

Applications are invited from Eligible Candidates for the following Aided Assistant Professor Posts to be filled in Degree Colleges under Sree Siddaganga Education Society as per the Commissioner Collegiate and Technical Education, Govt. of Karnataka, Bangalore order No. ಕಾಶಿಇ/21/ಖಾಹುಭ/2020–21/ಬೆಂಗ್ರಾ/ನೇವಿ–2 Dated:27-03-2023. Joint Director, Regional Office, Collegiate Education, Bangalore Order No: ಕಾಶಿಇ/ಪ್ರಾಕಬೆಂ/ಆರ–1/06/ಖಾಹುಭ/2019–20 Dated : 28.03.2023

Sl. No	Subject	No. Of Posts	Reservation
01	Kannada	01	SC-01
02	English	01	SC-01
03	Chemistry	06	SC-01, General-01, ST-01, General (Women)-01, Cat (1)-01, General (Rural)-01
04	Commerce	04	SC-01, General-01, ST-01, General (Women)-01
05	History	02	SC-01, General-01
06	Botany	02	SC-01, General-01
07	Mathematics	02	SC-01, General-01
08	Physics	03	SC-01, General-01, ST-01
09	Zoology	03	SC-01, General-01, ST-01
10	Political Science	01	SC-01
11	Sociology	02	SC-01, General-01
	Total	27	27

Instructions to Candidates:

1. Duly filled in application with enclosures along with the Demand Draft of Rs. 2000/-(For SC/ST/CAT-1 Rs.1000/-) non refundable Processing fees favouring “President, Sree Siddaganga Education Society, S.S. Math, Tumkur-572104. Should reach through Registered/Speed Post to The Secretary, Sree Siddaganga Education Society, S.S. Math, Tumkur-572104 with in 21 days of the date of this advertisement. A Copy of the application and enclosures should be sent to Joint Director, Collegiate Education, Regional Office, Bangalore-01
2. AGE: For 1) General Merit (GM)-40 years, 2) OBC Categories (Cat-2A, 2B, 3A, 3B) - 43 Years, SC/ST/CAT (1) -45 Years as on the Last date of submission of Application. However in addition to above mentioned age limit, the applicants working as full time faculties in any Government or Private Aided Colleges can claim their number of years of service or 5 years whichever is less with the related documents duly signed by concerned Joint Director, Regional Office of Collegiate Education.
3. **Qualification**:
   a) Candidates must hold Master Degree in the Concerned subject with minimum 55% (50% for SC/ST) from a University established by law in India.
   b) Candidates should have qualified in the NET/SLET (KSET) exams.
   c) Candidates with Ph.D degree with course work are exempted from NET/SLET exams
   d) Candidates possessing Ph.D degree or registed for Ph.D degree prior to 11.07.2009 will be subject to fulfilling / the conditions laid down in the UGC notification 04.05.2016
4. Salary: As per UGC Norms & Government of Karnataka.
5. Inservice candidates shall submit their applications through the proper channel with ‘No Objection Certificate’.
6. Late and incomplete applications will be rejected and no correspondence will be entertained.
7. Govt/Dept. Reserves the right to cancel/hold the permission and selection of the Recruitment of the said post at any stage. Mere submission of the application or attending the interview does not hold any right to the candidate on the said post.
8. The Interview date will be intimated. And Candidates attending the interview will not be given any kind of Allowance.
9. A copy of the applications with attested copies send to ‘Joint Director, Regional office, No-05 Kalidasa Road, Gandhi Nagar,bangalore-560009

Application with complete details such as Full Name, Date of Birth, Place of Birth, Caste, Sub-Caste, Category & Reservation, Educational Qualifications with year of passing, Details of Board/University, Marks obtained, Percentage (from SSLC to the Highest Qualification), Experience with details, any other information required for the post as per UGC norms, Postal Address with Pin Code, Contact Details must be enclosed with all the relevant duly attested copies of all the certificates. For application forms, kindly visit www.sses.org.in

The Envelope containing the application should have the Title “Application for the post of Assistant Professor in _____

Sd/-
T K NANJUNDAPPA
Secretary
SSES, S.S. Math,

Place : Sree Siddaganga Math
Date: 28.03.2023

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

INBRIEF

23-year-old Triveni is Mayor of Ballari

Triveni *(in picture)*, 23, of the Congress, with her election as Mayor of Ballari City Corporation, became possibly the youngest Mayor in Karnataka. B. Janaki of the Congress was elected unopposed as Deputy Mayor of Ballari. Of the 39 wards in the civic body, the Congress had won 26 followed by BJP (13). There are five Independent members who supported the Congress in the mayoral polls. MLAs, MLCs, and parliamentarians had a chance to cast their votes as ex-officio members. Ms. Triveni's mother, Susheelabai, was Ballari Mayor for a year in 2019-20. "I became councillor of Ballari City Corporation at 21 and now, I have been elected Mayor. I am hopeful that I will meet the expectations of the people and my party by taking everybody into confidence," Ms. Triveni told the media after the election.

BBMP imposes meat ban on Sri Ramanavami

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has prohibited animal slaughter and sale of meat on Sri Ramanavami on Thursday. "There will be a ban on slaughterhouses, animal slaughter, and sale of meat on Sri Ramanavami," the joint director of the Animal Husbandry Department of the BBMP said in the order. BBMP bans the sale of meat during important festivals, including Ganesha Chaturthi, Sri Ramanavami, and Krishna Janmashtami, every year.

KIA saw good numbers in Feb. despite air closures

Flight operations were partially closed in view of Aero India; as per Airports Authority of India traffic data, there were 18,992 flights of which 2,017 were international and 16,975 domestic

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 28,66,773 passengers used the Kempegowda International Airport in February. FILE PHOTO

Despite airspace closure for flight operations at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) due to Aero India 2023 during February, the airport recorded good air traffic movement and passenger numbers during the month.

As per Airport Authority of India traffic data, in February, there were a total of 18,992 air traffic movements of which 2017 were international flights and 16,975 domestic flights. In January, there were a total of 21,386 air traffic movements.

As far as passenger numbers in February, a total of 28,66,773 passengers used the airport, which included 3,24,684 international and 25,42,089 domestic passengers. In January, a total of 31,56,238 passengers travelled through the airport.

With regard to cargo movement, a total of 30,832 tonnes of freight passed through the airport - 19,134 tonnes of international freight and 11,698 tonnes of domestic freight. In January, 31,200 tonnes of freight passed through the airport.

Flight operations at KIA were partially closed in view of Aero India, which was held at the nearby Air Force Station, Yelahanka. To ensure safety, the airport partially closed commercial flight operations during the days of practice and the main show.

Practice and rehearsals started from February 8 and the five-day event was held between February 13 and 17.

What is the deadline to complete widening of roads adjoining Palace Grounds, HC asks BBMP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bench also asked BBMP on safety measures put in place to avoid mishaps in view of widening works

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday directed the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to submit a status report indicating the deadline by which it would complete the works of widening of Ramana Maharshi road (Ballari road) stretch from Mekhri junction to Cauvery theatre junction, and Jayamahal road stretch between Mekhri junction and Cantonment railway station underpass.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice M.G.S. Kamal issued the direction while noticing that the BBMP, in its status report, had informed that 95% works of road widening between Mekhri junction and Cauvery theatre junction are complete, and had not provided status of widening of the other stretch. The Bench asked BBMP to inform the types of safety measures put in place to avoid mishaps in view of widening works on these roads that see movement of heavy traffic, particularly during night.

Pointing out that the State government had earlier given comprehensive details both to the Supreme Court and the High Court on its plan for widening of these stretches of roads adjoining Bangalore Palace grounds, the Bench asked the BBMP to give status of widening of these roads in terms of plan indicated to the courts earlier.

The Bench issued the directions while hearing a PIL petition filed in 2020 by Samarpana, a cultural and social organisation, seeking direction to widen these busy roads.

ED attaches property belonging to accused in Chinese app case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) provisionally attached movable assets to the tune of ₹106 crore in the Chinese loan app case.

The ED initiated the investigation on the basis of FIRs registered by Cyber Crime Police Station, Bengaluru under various sections of Karnataka Money Lenders Act, 1961, Information Technology Act, Karnataka Prohibition of Charging Exorbitant Interest Act, 2004, and various Sections of Indian Penal Code, 1860, against numerous entities and people in connection with their involvement in extortion and harassment of the public who had availed small amounts of loans through the mobile phone apps being run by Chinese nationals-controlled entities.

The entities were incorporated by appointing dummy directors on behalf of Chinese nationals, obtained KYC documents of company staff and appointed them as directors of such entities. They even opened bank accounts in their name without their knowledge or prior consent, said an ED release.

These entities are involved in illegal and criminal activities by submitting fake addresses in KYC documents and taking assistance from various professionals and other persons. They provide instant short-term loans to the public through loan apps and other means and charged high processing fees and exorbitant rates of interest and amounts were subsequently recovered from the public by these companies by way of threatening and causing mental torture to the borrowers of the loans over the phone as well as by contacting their family members, relatives, and friends asking for the money, said the ED.

The Chinese nationals-controlled entities have indulged in huge money laundering activities through the merchant IDs maintained with various payment gateways Razorpay, Cashfree, Paytm, PayU, Easebuzz, and bank accounts, thereby generating proceeds of crime. ₹106 crore has been attached under PMLA in merchant IDs and bank accounts, the ED said.

World Bank approves loan of $363 million to revive 500 rural reservoirs in seven districts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

According to a release from the World Bank, the assistance will support Karnataka's ambition to provide functioning tap water connections to every rural household in the State. FILE PHOTO

The World Bank has approved a $363 million loan to Karnataka to provide clean and safe drinking water to two million rural households through a piped water connection.

The loan has a maturity of 13.5 years including a grace period of two years. Almost 77% of Karnataka is arid or semi-arid and is vulnerable to climate-change-related variable rainfall causing droughts and floods, leading to groundwater depletion, and deteriorating water quality, according to the World Bank.

Under the programme, around 500 rural water reservoirs in seven water-stressed districts of Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Bidar, Chickballapur, Kalaburagi, Kolar, and Tumakuru will be revived to help increase water storage capacity and groundwater recharge.

According to a release by World Bank, the assistance will support Karnataka's ambition to provide functioning tap water connections to every rural household in the State.

"Gender parity is at the heart of our support to India's target to get piped water to all rural households," said Auguste Tano Kouame, World Bank's Country Director for India.

"Importantly, the programme will enhance the capacity of rural local governments to manage water supply services efficiently which will directly benefit women especially, as they bear the biggest burden of fetching water. They will now have better health and have more time to pursue opportunities for education and formal jobs," the release said.

Additional financing

Besides the World Bank funding, the financing for the project will come from the State government through Jaladhare, which will be funded through the State Budget, gram panchayat's own sources, and collection of water rate from the households.

The Jaladhare rural water supply programme was announced in 2018, to provide safe and sustainable drinking water at the rate of 55 litre per capita per day in rural areas by treating water drawn from rivers or reservoirs.

The State government had set a goal that all rural households should be provided with functional household tap connection at the earliest to achieve Sustainable Development Goal on safe drinking water.

CCB nabs offender missing for six years

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police on Monday nabbed a proclaimed offender who was accused in 108 cases and had not appeared in court for six years.

In 2009-10, as many as 108 cases were filed against Ashwak Ahmed in three police stations - Ramamurthynagar, Indiranagar, and Ashoknagar - on the charges of conning several people of crores of rupees by illegally selling agricultural land as revenue sites through his organisation called Granite Properties.

The CCB later took up the case and produced him in the court. "The trial began in 2016 and he secured a bail in the court. However, after that he did not appear in court and hence, the court declared him as a proclaimed offender," said S.D. Sharanappa, Joint Commissioner of Police, heading the CCB division.

The CCB police formed a special team who worked continuously on the case for around three weeks and caught him, said Mr. Sharanappa.

Akshayakalpa to make forays into Pune, Mumbai markets in May

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Shashi Kumar, founder and CEO, Akshayakalpa Farms and Foods Pvt. Ltd. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Karnataka-based organic dairy player Akshayakalpa Farms and Foods Pvt. Ltd. is all set to enter the markets of Pune and Mumbai in May 2023, and 50 cities of southern States in the next three months.

It recently started procurement of milk from farmers in its new processing cluster in Chengalpattu in Tamil Nadu.

During a field visit, Shashi Kumar, founder and CEO, Akshayakalpa Organic, told *The Hindu* that new processing plants would be set up in Haveri district to tap the organic milk market in the north Karnataka region and in Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh.

Akshayakalpa, which processes and sells organic milk and milk products through a network of certified farms, presently has two production clusters - one each in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

A modern technology processing plant processes organic milk and multiple other products, including organic curd, paneer, butter, ghee, cheese, buttermilk, yoghurt, batter, honey, bread, and coconut oil. The firm has an annual turnover of ₹200 crore.

In its Channarayapatna cluster, near Tiptur, the firm has 850 certified farms, where close to 11,000 cows are tagged and managed using the herd management system. The plant processes 75,000 litres of milk daily and largely caters to the market in Bengaluru. Along with veterinarian and social entrepreneur the late G.N.S. Reddy, Mr. Kumar founded the company in 2010.

In drought-prone areas

The company largely works in drought-prone backward areas where farming communities exist. "We work closely with young farmers. We groom them to be farmer entrepreneurs by providing bank linkages, extension outreach, technical services, and market access," says Mr. Kumar.

Adopting a holistic and multi-cropping method, farmers have increased their income 3-4 times for the last seven years, claim the couple. "On an average, a farmer earns close to ₹1 lakh a month. Even after all the deductions, they get around ₹40,000 in hand," Mr. Kumar explained.

"The company pays us ₹38 per litre," said farmer Siddalingaswamy, who owns more than a dozen cows and a 10-acre plot. He has installed a gobar gas plant and uses slurry for the farm.

Farm tourism

For bringing aspiration back to farming, the company has been promoting farm tourism. "Close to 200 farmers with their family visit the farm every week, staying overnight to understand what it takes to produce organic food," said manager H. Manjunath. Akshayakalpa takes back plastic milk sachets from consumers for recycling.

One booked for filming sportswoman in the bathroom at SAI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Jnanabharathi police have booked a case against a woman for allegedly taking an objectional video of another woman in the bathroom at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in Mallathahalli. The police said both the women were sportspersons training at SAI.

The incident took place on Monday night when the victim was taking a bath. "The woman had allegedly taken an objectionable video of the victim, and when she found out, the victim broke the accused's mobile phone. Then a complaint was also given by the victim," said Laxman. B. Nimbargi, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), West Division.

He said a case has been registered under IPC section 354 and IT Act. "We need to check the mobile phone of the accused, verify the video, and conduct further investigation," he added.

Male wardens

According to sources at SAI, after the incident, some questions were also raised on moral grounds about male wardens at the institute. "While there are over 50 girl diploma students on campus, all the four wardens are male. Some questions were raised about this," the source said.

Man charred to death in parked car

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A homeless person was charred to death inside a car early on Wednesday at Bhadrappa Layout in Kodigehalli police station limits. Around 2.30 a.m., a few locals called the fire brigade after noticing that a few cars that were parked in the locality had caught fire. The firemen put out the fire, but one car was completely burnt and a body was discovered.

The police are yet to identify the person, but the locals said that the person had no family or money and used to walk on the roads and sleep inside cars parked in the scrapyard. A case has been registered under Kodigehalli police station limits.

NCB seizes 541 kg of ganja at Rajahmundry

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Bengaluru zone, on Tuesday seized 541 kg of ganja from a truck at Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh. They also seized a Skoda car which was piloting the truck.

The inter-State gang procured huge amounts of ganja, loaded it inside trucks and stacked vegetables on top of it, the officials said. They found that the drug was sourced from the border area of Andhra Pradesh-Orissa and was on its way to various States, including Karnataka. Further investigation is underway.

Cong., BJP seek to snatch 5 seats from each other in Bengaluru

With Opposition parties finding it hard to get credible candidates to take on the incumbent, the fight boils down to a handful of constituencies that either of the parties seeks to snatch from the other

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The political matrix in Bengaluru city is characterised by an irony: There seems to be an evident pro-incumbency factor for the MLAs individually, even as their political parties may face anti-incumbency. Of the 28 MLAs in the city, 23 have served at least two consecutive terms as a legislator. All four MLAs from Congress and JDS, who defected to BJP in 2019 under 'Operation Kamala', won back their constituencies.

With opposition parties finding it hard to get a credible candidate to take on the incumbent, the real fight boils down to a handful of constituencies that either of the parties seeks to snatch from the other. Sources in Congress and BJP revealed that they are focusing on five seats each that they feel have the potential to swing. In the rest of the constituencies, the parties seem to have given their opponent a virtual walkover, including in the four seats of defectors from Congress and JDS.

Internal surveys by BJP have identified Mahadevapura, Chickpet and Bengaluru South constituencies as potential seats where the party may lose in May, sources in the party said. These three seats are on the "hit list" of Congress. "We are also focusing on Rajajinagar and Govindaraj Nagar, where we are very confident of winning," said Ramalinga Reddy, Working President, KPCC and one of the senior-most MLAs of the city.

While Congress lost Chickpet and Rajajinagar with a margin of less than 10,000 in 2018, it is also confident of winning Mahadevapura and Bengaluru South, which it has lost for the past three times now and with large margins. A senior Congress leader claimed that there was "palpable anti-incumbency" against the sitting MLA in these constituencies, as revealed by surveys by both Congress and BJP. However, the party is still struggling to decide on its candidates in these constituencies, and there are multiple aspirants for each of these seats, threatening to upset the party's calculations.

Meanwhile, BJP is focusing its energies on five seats - Jayanagar and Dasarahalli that it held till 2018; Vijayanagar and Byatarayanapura that it lost by less than 5,000 votes, apart from Shivajinagar. "Jayanagar and Dasarahalli have a strong BJP presence, and the party has won multiple times before 2018, and we will win them back this time. We lost Vijayanagar and Byatarayanapura with a very narrow margin and hope to win them this time," said N.R. Ramesh, president, BJP, Bengaluru South. However, senior Congress leader and Byatarayanapura MLA Krishna Byre Gowda said the BJP's calculations of winning seats that it lost by narrow margins in 2018 were misguided. "Last time, there was anti-incumbency against Congress. But this time, the situation is different; there is anti-incumbency against BJP, which will help us," he said.

A recent meeting of the BJP Bengaluru unit turned stormy with a section of the party alleging that several of its city MLAs were in cahoots with Congress leaders, indulging in "adjustment politics" affecting the party's prospects, sources said. The section demanded that Bommanahalli MLA Satish Reddy be fielded against Ramalinga Reddy in BTM Layout and R. Ashok be fielded against Mr. Gowda in Byatarayanapura. However, the incumbent MLAs are unlikely to shift constituencies, the source said.

Seats in focus

Constituencies Congress is keen on	Margin of defeat in 2018
Chickpet	7,934
Rajajinagar	9,453
Govindarajanagar	11,375
Mahadevapura	17,784
Bengaluru South	30,417
Constituencies BJP is keen on	**Margin of defeat in 2018**
Vijayanagar	2,275
Byatarayanapura	5,671
Dasarahalli	10,675
Jayanagar	12,312
Shivajinagar	15,040

BBMP prepares for polls, seizes articles worth ₹2.76 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After the Election Commission announced the schedule for the Karnataka Assembly elections, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) elaborated on preparations to conduct the polls in the city.

In a release, the BBMP said that cumulatively, articles worth nearly ₹2.76 crore have been seized so far by the civic body starting from March 9 till March 27. Sewing machines, saris, vehicles, shawls, metal stands, cookers, notebooks, boxes, buckets, pans, party flags and pamphlets, stickers, hats, gold, silver and other goods have been seized by the enforcement agencies in the city.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, who is also the Bengaluru City District Election Officer, said that to prevent the distribution of cash or gifts to electors and to monitor violations, 206 flying surveillance teams, 172 static surveillance teams, 31 video viewing teams, 67 video surveillance teams, and 225 accounting teams have been put in place. Five inter-State check posts have been set up to track the movement and distribution of goods and monetary transactions.

FIR against auto driver for threatening bike taxi rider

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A few days after bike taxi riders staged a protest in the city against the alleged harassment by autorickshaw drivers, the police filed an FIR under IPC section 506 (Criminal intimidation) against the auto driver who had threatened to set bike taxis on fire.

The tiff between auto drivers and bike taxi riders has been going on in the city for quite some time. In a video which had gone viral some days ago, an auto drivers' union leader had allegedly shamed a bike taxi rider for having tied up with an online aggregator app while also appealing to people to burn down bike taxis. The incident was reported to have taken place at Majestic.

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka enterprise)
Registered Office:- Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited, #148 Embassy Square, Ground floor, Infantry road, Bengaluru560 001.
e-mail:- techvjnl@gmail.com
Office of the Executive Engineer VINL.UBP.Division No.01 Kadur-577548 chikkamagaluru Dist
e.mail I.D : eeubpdvn1@gmail.com Phone No: 08267-2952070819-230018
NO:EE/VJNL/UBP/D-01/K/Tender/SB-Corri/2022-23/ 1664 Dated: 28.03.2023

CORRIGENDUM NOTIFICATION - 1 (only through E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM)

Reference: This office Short Term Tender Notification No: 1622 Dtd: 20-03-2023.

The Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP, Division No.01 Kadur as per KW-1 & 2, invited "Percentage" tenders through e-procurement vide ref on behalf of the Managing Director. Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Ltd, Bangalore for 18 works. Now due to technical reasons the last date of submission of completed tender documents & date of opening of technical bid are postponed and refixed as mentioned below.

Sl	First in e-procurement	Now to be read as
1	The last date for submission of completed tender documents through e-portal	01.04.2023 up to 17.30 PM
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bid (cover-I) by Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP, Diviaion No-01, Kadur	03.04.2023 @11.00 AM

Note: All other terms and conditions of tender mentioned in the reference shall remain unchanged except the calendar of events

Sd/- Executive Engineer.
DIPR/ckm/No.340/mca/22-23/2281

(Election Division)
Office of The Deputy Commissioner and
District Election Officer, Chikkaballapura District, Chikkaballapura
e-Mail:deo.ckbpur@gmail.com Ph.: 08156-277004, Fax: 08156-277002
No.ELN(1)/CR/145/2022-23 Date: 26.03.2023

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited through e-procurement as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and 2000 from eligible and interested Bidders for providing various material/services related to the Assembly General Elections 2023 to the office of the Deputy Commissioner and all the Taluks of the District. Interested Bidders can submit applications through e-procurement portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Details: **1. Regarding inviting Tenders for supply of Stationery Items required to this Office and Taluk Offices related to the Assembly General Elections 2023. E.M.D. (in Rs.): As in Tender Document. Tender Notice Schedule**: Commencement of download of e-tender Form from website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**: **28.03.2023.** Last Date for Queries on or before: **29.03.2023 till 5:00 PM.** Last Date for Uploading of Tender in E-procurement platform on or before: **03.04.2023 till 5:00 PM.** Submission of Samples: **03.04.2023 at 11.00 AM.** Opening of Technical Bid: **04.04.2023 till 05:15 PM.** Date of Original Document Verification: **Will be done on the uploaded documents at e-portal.**Opening of Financial Bid: **Will be intimated.** Approximate Stationery Kits Requires: **6 Kits.** Approximate value of tenders: **Rs. 20.00 Lakhs.**

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer, Chikkaballapura District.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 600/ ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/ 2022–23

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to Public at large that we are investigating and verifying the title on behalf of our Clients who have negotiated and intended to Purchase from the respective Owners viz MR. AMRIT K. PANDURANGI AND MRS. DWARAKA PANDURANGI the property described in the Schedule hereunder written. All persons/entities including inter alia any individual, Hindu Undivided Family, a company, Bank(s) and or Financial Institution/s, non-banking financial institution(s), Trust, a firm, an association of persons or body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lender(s), Creditor(s), and any authority having any right title, interest, share, having any claim against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, transfer, JDA, lease deed, tenancy, sub-tenancy, license, lien, mortgage, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, bequest, exchange, possession, occupation possession, adverse possession or family arrangement/ settlement otherwise howsoever are hereby required to give notice, submit the same in writing along with documentary proof and particulars of any such rights or claim to the undersigned at their office at No. 276, 12th Main, HSR Layout, Sector 5, Bangalore – 560102, within 07 days from the date of publication hereof, failing which our clients shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered released and or as waived.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 407, in the Third Floor, of Block "ASPEN", off the project "PRESTIGE ST. JOHN'S WOOD" measuring 2246 Sq. Feet of Super Built Up Area, approximately inclusive of proportionate share in common areas, such as passages, lifts, lobbies, staircases, and other areas of common use with One Covered Car Parking space in the basement floor, along with 1105/352081 72th Undivided share, right, title and interest in the Property forming portion of Municipal No. 18, Second Cross Road, Chikka Adugodi, Ward No. 66, Bangalore, which comes to 1105 Sq. Feet, and the apartment bounded on the:

East by: Entrance Corridor and Open towards Open Space in "ASPEN" Block, of "PRESTIGE ST. JOHNS WOOD":

West by: Open towards Open Space in "ASPEN" Block, and thereafter open towards internal Road in "PRESTIGE ST. JOHNS WOOD":

North by: Apartment No. 408 in Third Floor of "ASPEN" Block in "PRESTIGE ST. JOHNS WOOD":

South: Open towards Open Space in "ASPEN" Block, of "PRESTIGE ST. JOHNS WOOD":

Dated this 30th day of March 2023, at Bangalore

M/S. GK LEGAL
Advocates and Consultants,
No. 276, 12th Main, HSR Layout,
Sector 5, Bangalore – 560 102.
Mobile: 9844092992

RURAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DIVISION, CHIKMAGALUR.
Tender Notice No.: 31/2022-23 Date: 28.03.2023

Notice Inviting Tender

Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Chikkamagalur invites Tender through e-procurement related to works of Chikkamagaluru Taluk of Chikkamagaluru District. Min. Amount is Rs. 87.90 lakhs and Max. Amount is Rs. 87.90 lakhs. Details regarding undertaking or having implemented work as per Standard Tender Document KW-1-2-3 & 4 should be attached. Contract can be awarded to contractors only if they have the minimum qualifications as mentioned in Act 1.Tender for works should be submitted through e-procurement from 28.03.2023 to 05.05.2023 up to 5.30 PM. Tender will be opened on 06.05.2023 at 5.31 PM. In case this day is a holiday the next day will be considered. Notification can be read on www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in For further details the case worker can be contacted during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Chikkamagalur
DIPR/ckm/No.341/mca/22-23/2282

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Deputy Commissioner,
Shivamooga District, Shivamogga.
P:08182–226268E-mail:ka.shivamogga.dudc@gmail.com
No.SMGDC.DUDC/PLAN/15/89862/2022 Date: 27.03.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Executive Engineer, District urban development cell, Shivamogga invites tenders from the eligible renderers, for the construction of works detailed in the table below. Two tender document procedure as per KTPP rules 2000 shall be followed. **2)** Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in **3)** Tenders must be electronically submitted in e-procurement portal. **4)** Further information, if required, can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, DUDC, DC office, Shivamogga during working hours. **5)** Head of account: Amrutha Nagarothana (Municipality)-4

1. Date from which tender document can be downloaded: 28.03.2023 **2.** Pre-bid meeting (Venue-DUDC office): 01.04.2023 11:00 AM **3.** Last date & Time for receipt of tenders: 13.042023 5:30 PM **4**. Date & Time for opening of Technical bid: 15.04.2023 11:00 AM **5**. Date & Time for opening of Financial bid: 20.04.2023 11:00 AM or Later

Sl.No. 1. Name of Work: Urban Infra Structure works (Buildings Roads drain and other works) For the Urban Local Body of TMC Soraba Limits. Insentive grant under Amrutha Nagarothana (Municipality) phase-4 Project (DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT148425 **Amount put to tender (Rs. in Laks):** 76.01 (Excluding GST) **E.M.D. (Rs. in Laks):** 1.52 **Period of completion:** 6 Months (Excluding monsoon)

Sl.No. 2. Name of Work: Urban Infra Structure works (Roads and other works) For the Urban Local Body of CMC Sagar Limits. Insentive grant under Amrutha Nagarothana (Municipality) phase-4 Project (DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT149349 **Amount put to tender (Rs. in Laks):** 84.70 (Excluding GST) **E.M.D. (Rs. in Laks):** 1.70 **Period of completion:** 6 Months (Excluding monsoon)

Change in calendar of events (if any) will be published in e-procurement portal only. Paper notification will not be given.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
District urban development cell, Shivamogga District.
DIPR/smg/No.224-03/mca/22-23/2257

THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT TRAINING CENTRE
JC NAGAR, BANGALORE-560006.

ALLOTMENT OF REGIMENTAL SHOPS

1. Sealed tenders are invited from interested War Widow / Widows of Defence Personnel Killed While on Duty / Disabled Soldiers / Ex-servicemen & Spouses / Widows of Ex-Servicemen subject to license period for a period of one year further extendable upto five years for running below mentioned Regimental Shops at the Parachute Regiment Training Centre, JC Nagar, Bangalore.

S. No.	Shop Name	Building No.	Loc
(a)	Grocery Shop	P-39/4	Adjacent to URC complex PRTC
(b)	Food Court (Non Veg)	P-39/5	

2. Application form including terms & Conditions for running of above mentioned Regimental Shops can be obtained from the PRI Office of this Centre at the cost of Rs 500/- (Rupees five hundred only) each from 0900 hours to 1400 hours on all working days till 10 Apr. 2023. **Last date of submission of application form is 20 Apr 2023.**
3. Interested parties can go around the shop (s) with prior permission from authority before last date of submission of application form.
4. One person will apply for one shop only. More than one shop will not be allotted to any person or the same family.
5. The application will be enfaced with **"Application for Allotment of Regimental Shop"** on the envelope at the time of submission.

The Application shall be submitted to:
DEPUTY COMMANDANT
The Parachute Regiment Training Centre JC Nagar, Bangalore-560006.

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project Area 1) Request for proposal RFP for Selection of Contractor for Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart (Corporation Roads) in Thiruvananthapuram.

Sl. No.	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	PAC Amount (Exclusive Of GST)	Bid Submission Last Date
	Selection of Contractor for Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart (Corporation Roads) in Thiruvananthapuram.			
1	Road ID - 182 (Kuriyathi Road)	2023_SCTLT_552524_3	Rs.1,33,51,123	03/04/2023
2	Road ID - 178 (Vivekananda Nagar Lane)	2023_SCTLT_551354_2	Rs. 1,47,13,233	03/04/2023
3	Road ID - 41 (Kothuval to Sabhapathi Kovil Street Road) - Electrical	2023_SCTLT_558303_1	Rs.2,39,97,177	03/04/2023
4	Road ID - 42 (KK Road) - Electrical	2023_SCTLT_558318_1	Rs.1,73,20,346	03/04/2023

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e-mail. All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website. Bids are only accepted online on the Website https://etenders.kerala.gov.in

(sd/-) **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

Government of Karnataka
Office of Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer, Davanagere District
No.ELN:CR:165/2022-23 Date: 27.03.2023

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

FOR HIRING CARS ALONG WITH DRIVER ON MONTHLY RENTAL BASIS TENDER DOCUMENTS
(To be used for furnishing bids by the eligible firms)

Address for communication: DEO Davanagere DISTRICT.

TENDER SCHEDULE: TERM e-TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR HIRING OF CARS ON MONTHLY RENTAL BASIS: (1) TENDER REFERENCE NO & DATE: ELN:CR:165/2022-23 dated: 27.03.2023. (2) APPROXIMATE VALUE OF TENDER: Rs.70 Lakhs. (3) EMD AMOUNT: Rs 1,75,000/-. (4) TENDER COMMENCEMENT DATE: 27.03.2023. (5) LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS: 04.04.2023 at 5 pm. (6) TIME AND DATE OF OPENING OF TECHNICAL BIDS: 05.04.2023. (7) TIME AND DATE OF OPENING OF COMMERCIAL BIDS: 06.04.2023. (8) PLACE OF OPENING OF TENDERS: Deputy Commissioner Office, Davanagere.

Further Details: ADC, Office of DEO Davanagere DISTRICT PIN-577001. Ph: 9986886348. www.eproc.Karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer, Davanagere District
RO No. 1110: DIPR/DVG/KSMCA/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
(Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga.

Tender Notification (Through e-procurement)

ಸಂ. ಕಾಇಂ/ಗ್ರಾಕುನೀ&ನೈಇ/ವಿತಿ/ಕ.ಇಂ–2/**MVS:BDVT&SMG MVS, E-proc: 2022-23:3556/28-03-23 Date: 25.03.2023**

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka and as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000, item-war tenders are invited from the contractors registered in Panchayat Raj Engineering Dept/ Public Works Dept upto 2020-25 (Class 1 and above) through **Standard Tender Document of Work KW-4** for the works in Bhadravathi and Shivamogga Taluks in the jurisdiction of Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga District. Those who are paying the cost of forms and EMD in e-payment may be paid through Credit/Debit cards.

1) Pre-bid meeting date and place : **On 04.04.2023** at **11.30 AM** at Chief Executive Engineer's Office, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.

2.The last date for submission of filled-in application through e-procurement: **11.04.2023** upto **5.30 P M.**

3. Date of opening of Technical bid : **13.04.2023** at **11.30 AM.**

4. Date of opening of Financial bid : **15.04.2023** at **11.30 A.M**.

5. Time for completion of works : **15 months.**

If one of the above dates happens to be declared a general holiday, the next working day will be considered. Tender details, conditions and corrigendum or changes can be obtained in the official website **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**.

Sl No.	Indent No.	Name of the works	Amount put to tender (Rs in Lakhs)	EMD amount (In Rs)	Time for completion of works
1	RWSSD/ 2022-23/ WS/WORK _INDENT _47494/ CALL-7	Multi Village Water Supply Scheme to Umblebailu, Kallahalli and other 28 habitations of Shivamogga and Bhadravathi Taluks in Shivamogga district on DBOT basis under Jal Jeevan Mission.	3449.74/-	3450000/-	15 months

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga.
DIPR/SMG/No.239/Zenkar/2022-23

A BG-BGE

Caste, corruption, communalism issues resonate ahead of polls

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

A file photo of Panchamasali community members taking out a padayatra demanding inclusion in the 2A Category. The hurriedly redrawn reservation matrix by the BJP government has led to confusion and may face legal challenges.

Karnataka is headed for Assembly elections on May 10 even as multiple debates rage: on allegations of corruption against the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, changes in the caste reservation matrix made at the fag end of the government's tenure, and an undercurrent of communal narratives. The ruling dispensation is attempting to push back with a narrative of development ushered in by what it calls "double engine sarkar".

After nearly four years of BJP rule helmed by two Chief Ministers (B.S. Yediyurappa and Basavaraj Bommai), elections are being fought when development and governance issues are increasingly clouded by emotional issues drawn on caste and communal lines. Politicians across parties have also acknowledged that caste and money play a key role when ballots are cast. The Election Commission has also acknowledged the menace of money and freebies in Karnataka.

Issues of caste

The BJP has in the last few months increased quantum of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, culled out internal reservation among the Scheduled Castes, created many caste-based corporations, scrapped reservation for Muslims and enhanced reservation for the powerful Vokkaliga and Veerashaiva-Lingayat communities.

The hurriedly redrawn reservation matrix may face legal challenge, while both Congress and JD(S) have promised to restore reservation to Muslims under OBC quota if voted to power. Internal reservation has drawn mixed reaction, with Banjara communities launching violent protests in Mr. Yediyurappa's constituency. The enhancement of reservation to SC/ST awaits inclusion in Schedule 9 of Constitution for protection from legal challenge.

In its bid to woo communities, statues of icons of communities have been unveiled in the recent past across Karnataka and those include Kempe Gowda, the Vokkaliga icon, Chhatrapati Shivaji, the Maratha king, Basavanna and Kittur Rani Chennamma, the icons of Veerashaivas, and Sangolli Rayanna, the Kuruba icon.

Karnataka Votes 2023

Around communalism

Before the caste issues gained prominence, a slew of issues related to communalism had hogged the limelight in Karnataka. The ban on cow slaughter, anti-conversion act, controversy around Muslim girls wearing hijab in classrooms and opposition to using loudspeaker for calling *Azaan* among others have stoked communal feelings and led to polarisation.

Congress hopes this will lead to consolidation of Muslim votes in its favour, while JD(S) too is hoping to benefit. BJP, on its part, has claimed credit for banning "extremist" PFI, a Muslim organisation.

More recently, the Uri Gowda-Nanje Gowda narrative has been propped by the BJP, by portraying these two characters as "brave soldiers" of the Vokkaliga community who killed the 19th century Mysuru ruler Tipu Sultan. The king, who died in a battle with the British, is consistently painted as "anti-Hindu" by the BJP.

Congress has consistently talked of "40% commission government" to highlight alleged rampant corruption in the government. It has also raised allegations of poor governance, poor management during COVID-19 pandemic, recruitment scams and "step motherly" treatment to Karnataka by the Centre. The BJP has attempted to counter them by projecting its developmental programmes. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself has been roped in to inaugurate mega infrastructure projects in recent times to showcase the development agenda and talk of "double engine sarkar."

Among the projects Mr. Modi inaugurated include Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway, Shivamogga Airport, Terminal 2 of Bengaluru International Airport, laying the foundation for Bengaluru suburban rail, flagging off Vande Bharat train between Mysuru and Chennai via Bengaluru, inauguration of the swanky Sir M. Visvesvaraya Railway Terminal at Baiyyappanhalli. The latest was the inauguration of the highly anticipated Namma Metro line between Krishnarajapura and Whitefield.

Key issues not in debate

Meanwhile, several key issues – such as implementing the long-pending Mahadayi project and Krishna Water Tribunal 2 awards, crucial projects for North Karnataka besides the Mekedatu project across river Cauvery in the South – are almost out of the public narrative now. Price rise and unemployment affecting livelihood too have occupied centre stage.

BJP gets battle-ready with macro and micro preparations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has become the party's face even for Assembly polls, has visited the State seven times since January

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

Four teams of senior leaders completed State tour under the Jana Sankalpa Yatra campaign recently. FILE PHOTO

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party is arguably the most well-prepared party for the forthcoming elections to Karnataka Assembly, having begun work more than a year ago, though the Election Commission of India announced polling dates only on Wednesday.

BJP has simultaneously been carrying out poll preparations at multiple levels like State tour at the apex level and booth-level campaigns at the grassroots level, besides conventions at regional level and public meetings of frontal organisations and beneficiaries of various schemes at the district and constituency levels.

Various tours

While top leaders toured the State under Jana Sankalpa Yatra campaign last year, four different teams of senior leaders have completed one more round of State tour under the Vijaya Sankalpa Yatra recently covering all the 224 Assembly constituencies in the State during the 5,600-km journey. This is in addition to holding conventions of SCs, STs, OBCs, youth and women in different regions. An important dimension of poll preparation was the series of visits of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to participate in official programmes as well as party conventions all the way from Bidar to Chamarajanagar. While the Prime Minister's visits were aimed at wooing people through promise of development agenda, Mr. Shah is focusing on evolving poll strategies. In fact, the Prime Minister, who has become the party's face even for the Karnataka Assembly elections, has visited Karnataka seven times since January.

At grassroots level

The party has also held two grassroots-level campaigns at the booth-level. While the first booth-level campaign aimed at hoisting the party's flags at the houses, the second one focused on distributing pamphlets on the achievements of the governments. The intent of both was making the party's booth-level units ready by completing the process of formation of booth-level committees and page pramukhs - people appointed as in-charge for each page of the electoral rolls of the booths - for micro management.

BJP has formed a poll campaign committee led by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and poll management committee led by Union Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje . The manifesto committee too is in the final stages of completing its work while the first list of candidates too may be announced shortly.

Cong. to step up campaign after Rahul's Kolar rally

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

A file photo of Congress leaders during the Praja Dhwani Yatra in Mysuru.

The Opposition Congress in Karnataka, which completed its first round of Praja Dhwani Yatra across the State, will kick start its second round of campaign with former MP Rahul Gandhi's "Satyamev Jayate" rally in Kolar on April 5.

Mr. Gandhi had made the controversial "Modi surname" speech in Kolar during the 2019 general election, which led to his disqualification from the Lok Sabah following the court verdict..

Second list

Meanwhile, the party's central election committee will meet in the national capital on April 3 and prepare the second list of candidates. The party had already announced its first list of candidates last week and decided to announce the second list of 75 candidates after Mr. Gandhi's visit to Kolar, sources in the party said.

During the month-long campaign, the party has proposed to rope in AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Mr. Rahul Gandhi, AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and other senior leaders.

The party, which has welcomed the one-day polling, is expected to release its manifesto in the mid of April after finalising candidates in all 224 constituencies.

Four 'guarantees'

The party has already announced its four major "guarantees" if voted to power. They included a monthly guarantee of ₹2,000 to nearly 1.5 crore women under the Grih Lakshmi scheme, 200 units of electricity free under the Grih Jyoti scheme, 10 kg of free rice to BPL families under the Anna Bhagya scheme and monthly cash incentive of ₹3,000 for every unemployed graduate and ₹1,500 for diploma holders under Yuva Nidhi.

To ensure that the message reaches the intended beneficiaries, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar have covered Praja Dhwani Yatras in 190 constituencies across the State and have also signed the "guarantee card".

Tenor of campaign

It is interesting to see whether the Congress will ramp up its campaign strategy on alleged "40% commission" in the BJP government, after excessive use of "Chowkidar Chor Hai", a Hindi slogan used by the party in the 2019 general election, appeared to boomerang. The BJP, facing multiple corruption charges, has been taking a moral high ground on eliminating corruption, stating it has empowered the Karnataka Lokayukta that was weakened by the Congress.

Reservation matrix

On the contentious issue of change in the reservation matrix, the Congress has announced that it will restore 4% quota for Muslims that has been removed by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party if elected to power.

JD(S) on a mission to protect its turf with Pancharatna Yatra

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With Congress being helmed by D.K. Shivakumar, a Vokkaliga, and BJP raising the ante in Old Mysore region, the Vokkaliga heartland, JD(S) seems to be under pressure in several constituencies. FILE PHOTO

The Janata Dal (Secular), which has covered about 90 constituencies across Old Mysuru, Central Karnataka and Kalyana Karnataka regions in the State so far during its Pancharatna Yatra, has already announced candidates for 93 seats, and is expected to announce its second list soon.

While the party has managed to contain dissidence if any at most places, decision on Hassan seat is yet to be made. Party sources also said that announcement for some seats may take time since party hoppers are expected to join JD(S), and this will depend on the announcement of candidates by Congress and BJP. With Congress being helmed by D.K. Shivakumar, a Vokkaliga, and BJP raising the ante in Old Mysore region, the Vokkaliga heartland, JD (S) seems to be under pressure in several constituencies.

Former Chief Minister and party leader H.D. Kumaraswamy, who has led the Pancharatna Yatra, has travelled about 10,000 km, visiting about 5,500 villages since the yatra was launched on November 18 at Mulbagal. He has spoken about the Pancharatna including healthcare, education and employment, and creation of capital asset through these programmes.

However, based on ground reality that he experienced during the yatra, Mr. Kumaraswamy announced 50% subsidy on LPG cylinders whose price has crossed ₹1,000 now besides ₹2,000 monthly incentive to autorickshaw drivers, his aides said.

He said that the party poll manifesto is almost ready, and that the preparations are underway. The second list of candidates will also be announced soon.

Seizures worth ₹58 crore made so far

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Electrol Officer for Karnataka Manoj Kumar Meena addressing the media in Bengaluru on Wednesday. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

With the announcement of the Assembly elections, the model code of conduct (MCC) has come into force in the State. However, even before it kicked in, cumulatively articles and cash worth nearly ₹58 crore have been seized so far by enforcement agencies, said Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Manoj Kumar Meena here on Wednesday.

Strict surveillance

With money power being flagged as a major challenge in Karnataka, the CEO told a media conference that 2,040 flying squads, 2,605 static surveillance teams, 266 video viewing teams, 631 video surveillance teams, and 225 accounting teams have been put in place. Of the total 942 check-posts, 171 have been set up at inter-State borders to track the movement and distribution of goods and monetary transactions to ensure inducement-free elections.

As per the ECI's direction, the enforcement agencies were asked to act upon various election-related fraudulent activities prior to the code of conduct kicking in. Accordingly, the State nodal officers have acted and booked cases against those who have tried to influence voters. Besides cash, items like liquor, narcotics, precious metals, and freebies such as cookers and saris have been seized. "A total of 1,985 FIRs have been filed from March 9 to 27," the CEO said.

Various agencies

While the Police Department has seized items worth ₹34.4 crore, ₹14 crore in cash, 530 kg drugs, 15 kg gold, 135 kg silver, and freebies worth ₹11.2 crore, the overall seizure by the Excise Department has touched ₹10.9 crore.

Similarly, Income Tax Department, Commercial Tax department, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Narcotics Control Bureau, Central Board Of Indirect Taxes, and Customs and State Civil Aviation have also made seizures, the CEO said.

cVigil mobile app

Mr. Meena said people could file complaints on model code of conduct violations using the cVIGIL mobile app. "This app provides time-stamped evidentiary proof of the MCC/expenditure violation by empowering every citizen to click a photo or video using his or her smartphone. The application is based on GIS technology, and the unique feature of auto location provides fairly correct information which can be relied upon by flying squads to navigate to the right spot of incidence and take prompt action," he explained. This app prioritises speedy and effective action by authorities and promises users status reports within 100 minutes.

In view of COVID-19, the allocation of public spaces for meetings and rallies will be done using the SUVIDHA app as far as practicable.

In numbers

Total voters **5,24,11,557** including 47,609 service voters

Male: **2,63,78,462**, including 46,017 service voters

Female: **2,60,28,344**, including 4,751 service voters

Third gender: **41,312** verified, of which 4,751 are marked on EC database

Sex workers: **1,00,834**

Voters aged above 80: **12,15,142,** including 16,976 centenarians

Total young voters: **9,58,806**

Particularly vulnerable tribal groups: **30,517**

Physically challenged voters: **5,60,908**

Highest electors: **6,77,247** in Bengaluru South

Lowest electors: **1,68,564** in Sringeri

Total number of polling stations **58,282**

Highest **4,434** in Belagavi | Lowest **542** in Kodagu

Elector-population ratio: **68.96** voters for every 100 people

Gender ratio: **988** women for every 1,000 male

Total polling personnel **2,79,752** required; 3,51,153 available

Micro observers **17,276**

SPECIAL POLLING STATIONS

Polling stations managed by persons with disabilities: **224**

Polling stations managed by youth: **224**

Ethnic polling stations: **40**

Theme-based polling stations: **200**

Sakhi polling stations: **1,120**

Newly manufactured EVMs to be used

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Election Commission of India (ECI) will use newly manufactured Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in Karnataka assembly elections.

Manoj Kumar Meena, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) for Karnataka, said the latest M3 EVMs manufactured by Hyderabad-based Electronics Corporation of India (ECI) Ltd. are being used for the first time in Karnataka.

"These machines are fresh from the manufacturers and have not been used in any election. The machines have undergone first-level checking (FLC) in front of political parties and are ready for use," he said.

"For the total 58,282 polling stations, the available Ballot Units that have undergone FLC are 1,15,709, which is 199% more than requirement. Similarly, we have 82,543 Control Units (142% more than the requirement) and 89,379 VVPAT machines (153% more than the requirement). All machines have undergone checking," Mr. Meena explained.

It may be recalled that political parties had requested the ECI to not use EVMs that were earlier used in other States in Karnataka elections.

Karnataka will be the first State to set up permanent assured minimum facilities (AMF) such as ramps, toilets, drinking water facilities in all polling stations.

Will not print *dahi* on Aavin curd packets: Tamil Nadu

The FSSAI proposes to drop the English term 'curd'; wants to include the term *dahi* and writes to several cooperatives and private dairies asking them to change the term in their packaging

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Cooperative Milk Producers Federation, Aavin, has informed the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) that it will not print the word *dahi*, the Hindi equivalent for curd on its packets. The FSSAI had proposed to drop the English term 'curd' and had wanted to include the term *dahi* and had written to several cooperatives and private dairies asking them to change the term in their packaging.

Aavin has asked FSSAI to allow it to use the word *tayir* on curd packets. FILE PHOTO

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin criticised the FSSAI direction. In a Twitter post, Mr. Stalin said the "unabashed insistences of #HindiImposition have come to the extent of directing us to label even a curd packet in Hindi, relegating Tamil and Kannada in our own States".

"Such brazen disregard to our mother tongues will make sure those responsible are banished from South forever," he added.

BJP State president K. Annamalai issued a statement requesting an immediate rollback of the notification for using the Hindi word *dahi*. State-run cooperative milk societies must be allowed to use their regional language on the packets, he urged. He said the Centre under Prime Minister Narendra Modi had always promoted regional languages.

Sources in Aavin said they had written to the FSSAI requesting that they be allowed to continue using the Tamil word *tayir* on their packets.

From Page One

FIR against DKS for 'throwing money'

"A written complaint was filed against Mr. Shivakumar based on the media reports that he had thrown cash while campaigning. An investigation officer will be appointed tomorrow (Thursday) to probe the complaint," said the official.

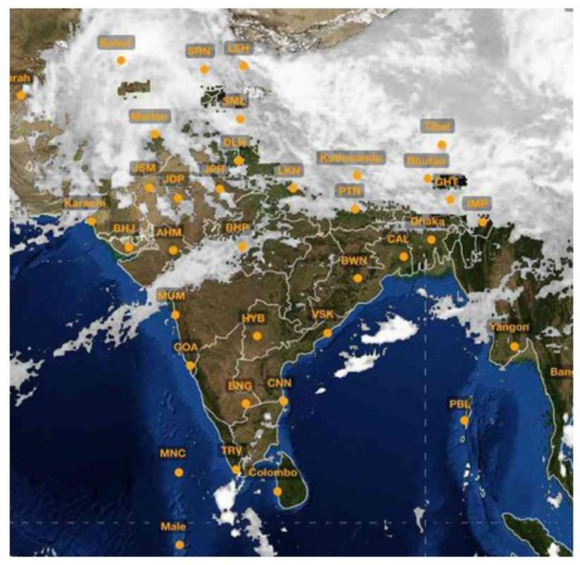
The alleged incident took place at Bevinahalli in Mandya taluk where Mr. Shivakumar was campaigning during the Praja Dhwani Yatra.

Meanwhile, Congress workers have said Mr. Shivakumar was only paying money to the folk artists who were part of the yatra. They said when the rally reached Bevinahalli, a few members of a music troupe came near the vehicle and asked for money. The leader tried to give money but he could not reach them, as he was standing on top of the vehicle. Hence, he threw the notes towards the artists, they said. Speaking to a television channel, Mr. Shivakumar said it was no more than a "cultural practice" to give money to artists.

Earlier, a delegation of the BJP filed a complaint before the State Chief Electoral Officer seeking action against Mr. Shivakumar.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Hailstorm/thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/gusty wind likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Mizoram, Sikkim, West Bengal, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.4	29.4	22.6	Kozhikode	—	35.5	27.4
Ahmedabad	—	36.6	22.1	Kurnool	—	38.6	27.2
Aizawl	35	23.7	14.0	Lucknow	—	34.0	18.5
Allahabad	—	36.2	18.0	Madurai	8	36.4	24.4
Bengaluru	—	34.0	23.4	Mangaluru	—	32.7	23.7
Bhopal	—	—	19.4	Mumbai	—	30.8	22.0
Bhubaneswar	9	34.8	24.7	Mysuru	—	35.0	22.2
Chandigarh	—	29.8	15.9	New Delhi	—	33.6	16.2
Chennai	—	33.1	26.8	Patna	—	35.7	18.6
Coimbatore	—	35.4	25.4	Port Blair	—	32.0	24.8
Dehradun	—	30.4	13.7	Puducherry	—	33.9	24.8
Gangtok	27	18.4	9.7	Pune	—	36.6	18.6
Goa	—	32.2	20.6	Raipur	—	36.7	23.5
Guwahati	—	31.0	19.0	Ranchi	—	33.2	20.2
Hubballi	—	38.0	19.0	Shillong	—	21.6	12.9
Hyderabad	—	37.0	23.6	Shimla	—	19.6	8.8
Imphal	1	23.9	15.2	Srinagar	—	20.3	5.5
Jaipur	—	33.0	21.3	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.5	26.3
Kochi	—	31.4	27.4	Tiruchi	—	37.7	26.0
Kohima	1	22.2	12.2	Vijayawada	—	35.4	25.8
Kolkata	—	35.0	26.8	Visakhapatnam	—	32.0	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	9	60	.17	151	137	
Bengaluru	7	13	.40	78	106	
Chennai	.86	24	.45	31	30	
Delhi	.25	111	116	250	248	
Hyderabad	7	26	.30	101	125	
Kolkata	8	14	.29	44	56	
Lucknow	.32	.24	.33	193	125	
Mumbai	.11	.35	.92	206	127	
Pune	104	151	114	111	87	
Visakhapatnam	.16	.36	.36	43	72	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 341 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Sivasagar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 25

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

In Karnataka, BJP has to go beyond just Lingayat base

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

As election dates have been announced for Karnataka, one of the most keenly watched contests, for the BJP, the challenge is not just to retain the lone southern State in its kitty, but to look at a broad-basing of its support base beyond just former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa's Lingayat appeal.

The announcement by the Basavaraj Bommai government to remove 4% reservations to Muslims and divide them among the Veerashaiva Lingayat sect and the Vokkaliga community is not just about attempts to polarise the vote on religious lines, but more a pointer on where the BJP has staked its wooing capacity.

While Veerashaiva Lingayats are a traditional vote bank for the BJP, the Vokkaliga community has voted for either the Congress or the Janata Dal (S) and the Old Mysore area has long remained out of the reach of the BJP. In the Lok Sabha, the situation is different as national issues, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pan State appeal works for the BJP.

The appointment of Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje, a Vokkaliga, as the chief of the election management committee for the BJP for these polls is also an indicator that the BJP wants to, while retaining Lingayat support, also reach out to Vokkaligas.

Reaching the masses: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa at the Vijaya Sankalp Yatra in Davangere on March 25. ANI

The big mystery for a while has been why Mr. Yediyurappa, a big leader among Lingayats, without whom a BJP victory is impossible, was removed as Chief Minister and later wooed back as member of the BJP's parliamentary board?

According to a senior leader of the BJP involved in Karnataka, the close identification between Mr. Yediyurappa and the Lingayat community was itself an issue for the BJP, which wanted the vote for the organisation, party and ideology, and not just accrue to an individual leader.

In good humour

"After he [Mr. Yediyurappa] quit, it was soon very clear that he still commanded the support of the Lingayat community, and whatever happened in 2013 [when Mr. Yediyurappa floated his own outfit, the Karnataka Janatha Paksha, reducing the BJP to third position] was front and centre," said the senior leader.

The effort since then is to keep Mr. Yediyurappa in good humour but to also broad-base the party. In coastal Karnataka, the appeal of Hindutva works for the BJP, but elsewhere, the accumulation of support from communities across the spectrum is important.

These Assembly elections will not see Mr. Yediyurappa directly in the fray, and for the BJP, the real question of these elections will be whether or not the Lingayat vote will come to the party, sans a chief ministerial aspirant in Mr. Yediyurappa, and whether any ingress could be made into other communities, liberating the party from the dominance of a single caste base.

INBRIEF

Kerala High Court says 'no' to capturing 'Arikompan'

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Wednesday constituted a five-member committee of experts (CoE) to suggest measures to prevent Arikompan, a wild elephant roaming in Munnar, from straying into human settlements, other than the capture and holding of the elephant in continued captivity. The Bench comprising Justice A.K. Jayasankaran Nambiar and Justice Gopinath P. observed that pending receipt of the report of the CoE, deployment of forest personnel and kumki elephants should be continued for safeguarding the people in the settlements from the elephant.

BJP Kerala chief booked for remarks on CPI(M) women

The police on Tuesday registered a case against BJP State president K. Surendran for his allegedly disparaging remarks on women leaders of the CPI(M). He made the comments during an event organised by the BJP Mahila Morcha in Thrissur on Sunday. He has been charged under Sections 354(A) (sexual harassment by making sexually coloured remarks) and 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) of the IPC. The complaint was filed by AIDWA State secretary C.S. Sujatha.

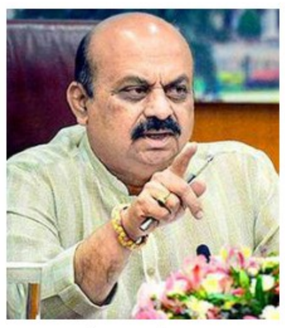
20 booked for circulating morphed content online

Hyderabad city police's cybercrime wing on Wednesday booked cases against 20 social media users from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for circulating morphed content, purportedly objectionable, defamatory and harming the modesty of women. The violators are students or dropouts, aged between 20 and 30 years. They were indulging in such activisty with an intention to increase their ratings to earn money, DCP (Cyber Crimes) Sneha Mehra said.

DKS is 'openly calling' BJP MLAs to join Congress, says Bommai

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Tuesday lashed out at Karnataka Congress president D.K. Shivakumar for "openly calling BJP MLAs" to join the Congress and assuring ticket in the second list of candidates in 100 constituencies.


Basavaraj Bommai

Replying to a question, Mr. Bommai said, "As per my information, Mr Shivakumar is calling our MLAS over phone and guaranteeing them Congress ticket in the second list of 100 constituencies. This shows the Congress situation in Karnataka."

The Congress has announced the first list of candidates to 124 constituencies. Another list is expected to be announced before April 1, sources in the Congress party said.

Wrong information

The Chief Minister also hit out at the State Congress leaders for "feeding wrong information" on internal reservation for Scheduled Castes in Karnataka. Unable to digest the social justice done to every community, Mr. Bommai alleged, the Congress leaders have been "instigating people" on the eve of elections and "sponsoring protests."

The BJP government has not removed Banjaras (Lambanis), Bhovi, Korcha, and Korma from the SC list. But the Congress leaders have been providing wrong information on internal reservation in the SCs and misleading the public, the chief minister claimed. Some members of the Banjara community staged a protest in Shivamogga on Monday and Tuesday against internal reservation decided by Karnataka Cabinet and sent to the Centre for approval. The BJP has alleged that the Opposition Congress "sponsored" the agitation in the district.

On poll expectations, he said BJP had done all surveys and the party would come to power on its own. The parliamentary board meeting would be held soon and after that the list of candidates would be announced, he said.

Modi to visit Mysuru

Prime Minister Narendra Modi would visit Mysuru on April 9 to mark the completion of 50 years of Project Tiger and showcase the country's conservation success globally, he said. Project Tiger was launched in 1973. According to sources, Mr. Modi will also release the latest tiger census data on the occasion.

Emotional moment

What a relief: Students of the Government Girls High School, Ernakulam, hug their teacher after appearing for the last Board exam. The SSLC examination in Kerala concluded on Wednesday. THULASI KAKKAT

Pollution board slaps ₹30-cr. fine on Kochi Corporation for Brahmapuram blaze

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has slapped a fine of ₹30 crore on the Kochi Corporation as environmental compensation for the Brahmapuram blaze, thereby taking the total fine amount to ₹131.08 crore.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) had earlier slapped a fine of ₹100 crore and the State Pollution Control Board another ₹1.08 crore following the March 2 fire outbreak at the dumping yard.

The CPCB asked the State board on Tuesday to identify the cause of the fire, fix responsibility for the incident, and initiate legal action against those responsible for the event. It has also sought a detailed report on the environmental impact, including the air quality monitoring reports, and the health impact of the fire.

A file photo of workers trying to douse the fire that broke out at the Brahmapuram waste treatment plant. R.K. NITHIN

Instructions for upgrading the facility to treat waste in compliance with Solid Waste Management Rules shall be issued. The local body shall be asked to comply with directions to carry out a risk assessment and develop an emergency plan to prevent the recurrence of such accidents, the CPCB instructed the State board. A.B. Pradeep Kumar, chairman of the Kerala board, confirmed that it had received an instruction from the CPCB.

The CPCB said that around 365 tonnes of unsegregated municipal solid waste was being dumped at the Brahmapuram site daily, where there were no facilities for gas extraction, liner to prevent percolation of leachate, or garland drain for leachate collection.

Human life, above all

Opposition of doctors to the right to health comes from baseless misgivings

It is confounding how something that is stridently 'good' in ethical and legal terms can run into a wall of opposition built on narrow professional and commercial interests. As in the case of the Right to Health Act that was passed in Rajasthan last week, and the unprecedented kerfuffle that followed, with doctors in the State vehemently protesting what they called a 'draconian law'. The Right to Health is in sync with the constitutional guarantee of right to life, and other components of the Directive Principles. That no person seeking health care should be denied it, on the grounds of access and affordability, is an acceptable proviso. The Rajasthan Right to Health Act, 2022, addresses these key issues of access and affordability. It "seeks to provide protection and fulfilment of rights, equity in relation to health and well-being for achieving the goal of health care for all through guaranteed access to quality health care for all residents of the State, without any catastrophic out-of-pocket expenditure". The law, which also provides for a social audit and grievance redress, gives every resident of the State the right to emergency treatment without paying a single paisa to any health-care institution, and specifies that private health-care institutions would be compensated for the charges incurred for such treatment.

The doctors who came out in large numbers to protest the law on the streets of Jaipur said they were distrustful of the government's promise of recompense for expenses incurred for treating patients during an emergency. To the charge that there is no detailing of the process, health right activists have pointed out that it would be a function of the Rules, not the law itself. The protesting doctors also claimed to be apprehensive of the government's interference in their functioning once the law is enforced. Ironically, all of them believe that health care is a right of the people; only, they believe that the State would have to be the sole provider. However, this is scarcely the first such exposition of the right to health. In 1989, the Supreme Court observed that "every injured citizen brought for medical treatment should instantaneously be given medical aid to preserve life and thereafter the procedural criminal law should be allowed to operate in order to avoid negligent death". Having transformed a progressive ideal into law, Rajasthan should now strive to gain the trust of the doctors through demonstrable action. It is also incumbent upon the doctors to rise above the differences, and work with the government to save human lives.

Time to move on

The AIADMK needs to fight factionalism to play the role of a credible Opposition

The state of confusion surrounding the AIADMK is expected to end sooner than later, with the Madras High Court deciding in favour of the AIADMK's interim General Secretary, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, the case concerning resolutions adopted at the party's July 2022 special General Council meeting. The development may not lead immediately to the closure of the legal battle, as his colleague-turned-bête noire O. Panneerselvam and his followers – the court rejected their interim applications – have approached a Division Bench of the court. But, the verdict has provided the much-needed clarity on the matter of leadership. Moments after the ruling, Mr. Palaniswami was declared elected unopposed as the party's General Secretary. Ever since the debate erupted between the two camps in June last year over the nature of party leadership – unitary or dual – the matter has been locked in litigation before the higher judiciary. Most often, the camp led by Mr. Palaniswami got favourable verdicts, including the February 2023 judgment of the Supreme Court which affirmed the Madras High Court's decision upholding the conduct of the July 2022 meeting.

Mr. Palaniswami should now focus his time, energy and resources in ensuring that his party plays the role of a more effective Opposition entity, as the intra-party squabbling and litigation have boosted the perception of ineffective functioning. He should also try and widen the party's support base. Its vote share of 44.34% in contested seats during the 2014 Lok Sabha election (when it fielded candidates in all constituencies in Tamil Nadu) fell to 35.2% five years later when the party headed a coalition that included the BJP, the PMK and the DMDK. Though there was an improvement, to 40.48%, in the 2021 Assembly polls, the AIADMK was still behind its traditional rival, the DMK, by nearly 6%. Going by the reactions of the BJP and PMK leadership to the new General Secretary, the AIADMK could have these parties on its side for the 2024 Lok Sabha election. However, if the idea of a "mega alliance" that was floated by Mr. Palaniswami a few months ago is to fructify, it has to have more allies. Mr. Panneerselvam, who seems continuously engaged in a legal battle, has two options – either patch up with Mr. Palaniswami or launch a party. By going it alone, he will only end up repeating what Mr. Dhinakaran did, in 2019 and 2021 – taking away a portion of the AIADMK's votes. It is only when the principal Opposition party is able to bring together as many parties and groups as possible, that its electoral fight next year with the DMK and its allies will be intense. Mr. Palaniswami has a huge role to play in making it happen. A well-meaning, credible Opposition that raises the level of political discourse in Tamil Nadu can certainly aid in governance.

India's DPIs, catching the next wave

Srivatsa Krishna

is an IAS officer

India's digital public infrastructure (DPI), loosely the India Stack and more, is a marvel of our times, shaped in a unique partnership between governments (Union and States), regulators, the private sector, selfless volunteers, startups, and academia/think tanks. Engendering sustained collective action at scale between so many disparate entities itself is magical and the outcomes are India's answer to Web 3, perhaps even superior in many ways.

Much has been spoken and written about India's DPIs, and as such, this article does not seek to repeat all of that, but instead about what is coming next, and who is driving it. What began as a foundation with Aadhaar created by Nandan Nilekani and R.S. Sharma in 2009 has led to many more Lego blocks, coming on top of it, and on its side, to create a superstructure which delivers consistent, affordable, and across-the-board value to citizens, government and the corporate sector – wherever it gets used imaginatively.

The rebirth of Aadhaar happened in 2014 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave it a canvas far wider and bigger than what was originally envisaged, and enabled it to become the rocket ship to launch good governance on. Today, over 1,700 Union and States government schemes ride atop it.

Aadhaar and the private sector

The judgment of the Supreme Court of India had affirmed privacy to be sacrosanct, and led to an unintended slowdown of the opening of Aadhaar to the private sector to unlock its value even further. The rapid adoption and attendant visible ease of doing business in day-to-day transactions for citizens, has now led to a gradual opening of Aadhaar, beginning with voluntary usage, for various private sector applications.

Aadhaar holders can voluntarily use their Aadhaar for private sector purposes, and private sector entities need not seek special permission for such usage. Also, between government departments (intra- and inter-State) Aadhaar data can be shared, but with the prior informed consent of the citizen. Banks and other regulated entities can store Aadhaar numbers as long as they protect it using vault and other similar means, as in Unique Identification Authority of India security regulations. A new private sector-friendly UIDAI is racing ahead to incentivise Aadhaar usage, to become richer and more meaningful.

> There is more to be tapped in the country's digital public infrastructure (DPI), which has paved the way for greater economic freedom for citizens

These three changes will lead to the next leap frogging of the India Stack as a whole, under a rare alignment of a dynamic political executive and inspired volunteers. Proof that this is work in progress is that Aadhaar authentications have shot up to 2.2 billion per month, and the cumulative number over the past 12 years has crossed 100 billion. Taking just one example, the Goods and Service Tax Network (GSTN) and then account aggregator could not have happened without an Aadhaar number and Permanent Account Number (PAN) database existing. Thus, the Lego blocks keep building one on top of the other.

DigiYatra and DigiLocker

Think of the kind of greenfield market innovation on top of Aadhaar which it can potentially create or unlock. The United States CLEAR programme (an expedited airport security/airport identity verification process) is now active at 51 airports with about 15 million members at a cost of $369 per annum for a family of four. In contrast is a slightly different variant, the DigiYatra, which is totally free of cost for the Indian traveller. Digi Yatra is a Biometric Enabled Seamless Travel (BEST) experience based on a facial recognition system (FRS), again through a partnership between industry and government, which ensures seamless identification of passengers at key check points such as airport entry, security check and boarding gate clearance. The pilots have shown that about two lakh passengers have utilised this successfully. Air passenger traffic in India was estimated to be over 188 million in airports across India in the financial year 2022, out of whom over 22 million were international passengers. When Digi Yatra reaches a third of them, it will lead to further second order effects and more innovation.

Take DigiLocker, one of the least known DPIs, which today has 150 million users, six billion stored documents, and done with a tiny budget of ₹50 crore over seven years. Plans are afoot to expand it to many countries around the world, and with this microscopic budget. When one applies for a passport now, one need not even upload any portable document format (PDF) any more or submit some notarised papers. A simple consent on the passport application form allowing it to fetch the relevant data from DigiLocker does the magic. Zerodha, Upstox, RazorPay, Equal and many other insurance and fintechs would not exist today but for the DigiLocker APIs, for their Know Your Customer/Client happens through it, almost instantly.

Here is another example. When DigiLocker was used in a Karnataka Police recruitment drive to verify the academic credentials of candidates, it led to the process being cut down by about six months.

Today, it is a travesty that there is no single portal where industry can see all the necessary (and many unnecessary) compliances, whether at the Union or the State level. If an Enterprise DigiLocker can be created, then it can lead to as many downloads of PAN, GSTN and the other documents as needed by multiple departments across many States, saving huge costs and headaches for businesses.

UPI's impact

Let us consider just one more metric, namely, the unified payment interface or UPI which is breaking records under the visionary leadership at the National Payments Corporation of India. It has now crossed eight billion transactions per month and transacts a value of $180 billion a month, or about a staggering 65% of India's GDP per annum. This does beg the question whether the growth of UPI impacts GDP significantly. Or, is it GDP neutral? In other words, does it merely take away a part of the existing payments through UPI transactions? Or, does it allow those who never transacted before to come onto the platform and increase the size of the cake? The jury is still out on this.

India's DPI marks our second war for independence – economic freedom from the day-to-day drudgery of life and transactions, which has made it become our new business backbone that is powering India towards a $25 trillion economy by the 100th year of our political independence. Imagine what new Cambrian explosion will happen when ChatGPT meets India Stack!

The views expressed are personal. @srivatsakrishna

A hardhanded response that strikes at the root of rights

K.R. Shyam Sundar

is Adjunct Professor at the Management Development Institute (MDI), Gurgaon

An estimated 19 lakh government and semi-government employees, including those in schools, colleges, zilla parishads, and government hospitals, to name a few, have been on strike demanding that the government return to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS); they have been on the National Pension Scheme since 2005. In several States such as Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, there has been a return to the OPS. Employees in Maharashtra desire that their State does the same.

The government's response has been predictable. It constituted a panel to study the implications of a return to the OPS, which is to submit a report in three months. The absence of union leaders in this panel is striking. But, most importantly, the Maharashtra Assembly has passed the Maharashtra Essential Services Maintenance and Normal Life of community Act (MESMA). Negotiations took place and the government made the assurance in writing that, in principle, it accepts the OPS. Based on this, the unions called off the strike on March 20, 2023. What is of interest now is the principal and typical method by which the State seeks to handle the strike by its employees.

An unchanged response

Since 1960, the government's approach, be it central or State government, to strikes by their employees has been to invoke ESMA, or the Essential Services Maintenance Act. It was historically a colonial instrument, though clothed differently under the Defence of India Rules. And, since 1950, several States, on numerous occasions, have promulgated ESMA.

Therefore, the question is this: is this the right response on the part of the government? In fact, private sector employers argue, not without reason, that the government which is supposed to be a model employer, often uses its elaborate legislative and police powers, while in contrast, they do not have any choice but to face a strike in the industrial relations sense and attempt negotiations with striking employees.

> The urgency with which governments in India promulgate the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) highlights the suppression of the democratic rights of many stakeholders

Second, who defines what is essential? What are the criteria for defining essential services? How long can an industry be called as an essential service in order to prohibit strikes or protests? ESMAs empower the government to define any economic activity as essential, which is an example of a dangerous weaponisation of the government (which tilts the balance in industrial relations in the government sector dangerously towards the government).

International situation, essential services

What is the global picture like? The International Labour Organization is the global organisation universally regarded to be the authoritative and legitimate body that can answer issues in connection with labour. The ILO's supervisory institution, the Committee on Freedom of Association (the Committee), among others, constructed the principles on the right to strike; this is worth noting as they serve as the guidepost to assess the government's actions.

The basic principle is that workers enjoy the right to strike, which is one of the principal means to legitimately promote and defend their economic and social interests. Purely political strikes are rare just as purely economic strikes are. However, it may prove to be difficult to label a strike to be political or otherwise. Who can go on strike? The committee recognises "a general right to strike" while allowing for an imposition of restrictions on strikes by some categories of public servants and workers in essential services. There could be a prohibition of strike action during acute national emergencies. Public servants who exercise "the right in the name of the State" cannot enjoy the right to strike – an example is public servants working in public sector enterprises (central or State), oil, banking and metropolitan transport undertakings, and those employed in the education sector.

The point of other dispute mechanisms

According to the Committee, employees in essential services do not enjoy the right to strike. Essential services are those where "the interruption of which would endanger the life, personal safety or health of the whole or part of the population" (ILO). The question of essentiality will, of course, depend on the peculiarities prevalent in countries. It has identified essential services such as the hospital sector, and services such as electricity, water supply, telephone, and air traffic control. Strikes in these may even be prohibited or strictly regulated. What is important is that where the right to strike is prohibited or strictly regulated, alternate dispute-resolution mechanisms must be put in place. In fact, it has mentioned a negative list of industries which are not essential which includes the transportation and education sectors.

The urgency with which governments promulgate ESMA, the "regulatory itch", betrays their colonial mindset. Governments have clothed themselves with wide powers to include any economic activity as essential, which is "irresponsible, unwise and anti-democratic". Democracy means an equitable distribution of power and ESMA monopolises power while suppressing the democratic rights of stakeholders. India is a pluralistic democracy where protests hold an important place and their sanctity needs to be respected by the government. Social dialogue rather than authoritarian measures will promote amicable and long-lasting solutions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Conspiracies by forces'

It is a matter of serious concern that there are "conspiracies" to undermine the constitutional institutions of our country, especially by outside forces, as asserted by the Prime Minister (Page 1, March 29). Hence, it is imperative for the government to speedily allocate enough investigative resources to thoroughly unravel those "conspiracies" at the earliest. As the chair of the G-20 this year, and the "mother of democracy" forever, our country cannot shy away from its responsibility of going after those outside forces — which allegedly want to destabilise our constitutional institutions.

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Had the Prime Minister named those 'forces', he would have been forthright. A vast majority of people who have been subjected to raids and inquiries by investigating agencies are opposed to the BJP. Does it mean that the conduct of all those associated with the BJP has been above board and lily-white? There are grounds and reasons to believe that the investigating agencies have been adopting a kid-gloves approach to those who are supporters or empathisers of the ruling party at the Centre. If the agencies have been enjoying functional freedom and independence, the stories of their investigations would have been different.

C.G. Kuriakose,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

Parliamentary business

That Parliament has not been functioning on account of the pandemonium that has been prevailing for a while is mainly due to the irresponsible and egoistic attitude of the Members. That some key Bills have been passed unanimously without any discussions on its merits or demerits is upsetting. Members should earnestly realise that they enjoy perks and other various benefits that flow from tax-payer money, and it is unbecoming of them to not carry out any business. There has to be decency and decorum.

P.S. Rajagopalan,
Chennai

Bone of contention

BJP MP Maneka Gandhi writes that dogs become aggressive when they perceive a threat ('Opinion' page, "Understanding the street dogs-human conflict", March 29). This is a half-truth. Fear-based aggression is not the only form of aggression dogs show. Predatory aggression, which makes them attack beings that they perceive as prey, is also common. Infants, even those sleeping, have been attacked by dogs.

G.L. Krishna,
Bengaluru

The writer bats in favour of dogs. Our long human experience also shows that a dog in the home can turn from friend to foe when its home is the street. A hungry dog is a dangerous animal . So, the best solution is to keep dogs in the homes of their owners. The solution is simple, practical and very honourable as far as our canine friends are concerned. It also requires no budget. The money saved can be used to better the lives of humans who have no shelter.

Matthew Adukanil,
Tirupattur, Tamil Nadu

Corrections & Clarifications

Turkmenistan was erroneously included in the list of SCO countries in a report titled, "India to host meeting of security advisers from SCO countries" (March 29, 2023). It should have been Kyrgyzstan.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

India needs public policy education

Hasmukh Adhia

is former Finance Secretary, Government of India. Views are personal

Government policies are pivotal in deciding the future of a country. Good public policies spur economic growth and public welfare and improve ease of living for citizens. However, there is little interest in public policy education in India. Only a small percentage of policymakers – civil service officers – are exposed to the formal study of public policy and public administration. In this context, this article carries a few suggestions which could boost public policy education in India. The phrase 'public management' is used to refer to both public policy and public administration.

The Indian bureaucracy has many talented people working at various levels. However, governance is still perceived to be lagging behind private sector management, in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. This is largely due to lack of training in public management. Over a span of 37 years in the civil service, I have observed that many policymakers are under-equipped to develop effective policies. Until the time I went to IIM Bangalore for public policy education, which was after 20 years of service, I was also an intuitive decision-maker. But institutional training in public policy changed the paradigm that I was following in my role.

Paucity of programmes

Most executive jobs in the organised sector are in government or government-owned agencies and require an understanding of public management. However, the supply of formal education in public management is inadequate as compared to business management education. As per data from the All-India Council for Technical Education, there are 3,182 institutions with an approved intake of 4.22 lakh in business management programmes, but only about 130 public, private and not-for-profit universities that offer public administration programmes and only 29 institutes that offer public policy programmes. Of these 29 institutions, 17 are private, four are semi-private, and eight are state-funded institutions. In general, the batch size of public policy courses is 20-60.

The reason why universities don't have many programmes of public management is because there are few jobs available for people pursuing such courses. The private sector offers limited opportunities in government advisory roles, consulting and Corporate Social Responsibility. For public sector opportunities, students have to go through competitive exams. Therefore, neither educational institutes nor students find any incentive to prefer public management courses in place of technical or management courses that offer lucrative private sector opportunities.

Further, there are very few civil servants who have got exposure to public management before joining service. Most of them undergo the departmental induction training programme which is focused on the role that they play in their department. They do not learn much about how to make good public policies.

There are a few opportunities for in-service officers to study public management in India and abroad. As per the data available of the capacity-building commissions in the 10 years between 2012 and 2021, 194 civil service officers (including 86 from the IAS) went abroad to study public management at the Master's level. Within the country, there are five institutions in which 194 civil service officers have been sponsored by the government for full-time public policy courses in the last three years. Contrast this with 1.3 lakh Group A officers in the Government of India today.

Public administration should be a compulsory paper for the UPSC exam

Three suggestions

Given this background, my first suggestion is that public management should be one of the compulsory subjects for the UPSC civil service examination. The introduction of a public management paper can either be a substitute for one optional subject or an additional paper. This will help in multiple ways. First, civil servants who join government would have formal education in public management before they enter service. Second, since about five lakh candidates appear for UPSC civil service every year and each one of them will need to prepare for the public policy paper, this creates an opportunity or incentive for universities and private institutions to offer the subject at the graduate or post-graduate level. Public policy education, research and case studies will get a major boost from this new demand. Third, even if only 10% of UPSC aspirants make it to various government jobs, including at the State level, others who studied this subject for the examination would develop better understanding and sensitivity towards complexities involved in public management, making them better citizens as well as effective private sector managers.

Some may wonder whether it is fair to make aspirants study public policy as a new subject. Yes, it is fair and this should not cause any difficulty. According to data of the last three years of UPSC aspirants, on average, 50% of the aspirants preferred an optional subject other than their graduation subject for the UPSC main exam. This indicates their willingness to learn whatever it takes to succeed in the exam.

The second suggestion is that existing training institutions of the government should have a larger component of public policy as part of induction training. Also, they should build up a case study bank for training.

Third, the government can create certain specialised positions of public policy analysts, to be picked up from the market directly, so that new job avenues for the graduates of public policy programmes can be created.

Stalin's national challenge

Time and regional compulsions are challenges in forming a non-BJP coalition

STATE OF PLAY

B. Kolappan
kolappan.b@thehindu.co.in

When Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, on the occasion of his 70th birthday, called for a pan-Indian alliance of Opposition parties, including the Congress, to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), he stepped into the shoes of his late father M. Karunanidhi, one of the architects of political fronts at the national level.

Those present on stage with Mr. Stalin included All-India Congress Committee president Mallikarjun Kharge, National Conference (NC) leader Farooq Abdullah, Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akilesh Yadav, and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejaswi Yadav, who are all waging a spirited fight against the BJP in their respective States. In fact, Mr. Abdullah urged Mr. Stalin to "come to the national scene" like his father.

Making it clear that neither a national alliance sans the Congress nor a post-electoral coalition would work in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, Mr. Stalin urged regional leaders not to allow State politics to come in the way of national politics. Although the DMK has been part of third fronts in the past, Mr. Stalin realises that these have been short-lived and futile in a political landscape that is ruthlessly dominated by the BJP.

However, regional leaders seem to have their own compulsions even though the BJP has emerged as a major challenge to them on their respective home turfs. A fortnight later, Mr. Yadav met Trinamool Congress leader and West

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and advocated for maintaining equidistance from the Congress and the BJP. This put paid to Mr. Stalin's hopes for a pan-Indian alliance despite his personal rapport with Ms. Banerjee and with leaders of the SP and RJD.

Mr. Stalin's supporters take pride in saying that he has proved to be more dangerous to the BJP than his father. They point out that he has remained unwavering in his opposition to the party and has aggressively asserted that the rights of States be defended. He has one advantage which his father lacked: the absence of charismatic Opposition leaders such as M.G. Ramachandran and Jayalalithaa in Tamil Nadu. The All-India Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) remains a divided house, while the BJP, headed by a police officer-turned politician, is yet to emerge as a key force in the Dravidian heartland.

On the flip side, Mr. Stalin does not have an advantage that his father enjoyed while forging national alliances. Unlike during the late post-Emergency period, the mid-1990s or even during 2004, when the political climate allowed for birds of different feathers to flock together with a common minimum programme, the present situation is not conducive as parties are unable to rally behind a single leader to take on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The SP should realise that it may be politically opposed to the Congress, but its ideological enemy is the BJP. If Mr. Stalin meets Mr. Yadav and prevails upon him to make a compromise with the Congress, he can score a point over the BJP," argued a senior DMK leader.

A similar strategy may work in other States. In West Bengal, Ms. Banerjee, a friend of the DMK, who makes it a point to call on Mr. Stalin whenever she visits Chennai, needs to be convinced to work together with the Left parties and the Congress. The Left in fact fought the BJP in the company of the Congress.

"The Congress, too, should make adjustments with regional parties since it is facing challenges from its political offshoots in some States. It should come forward to make sacrifices in State politics in the interest of a national role," the DMK leader said. The Congress has already come down in its position on the question of who should lead the front. While attending the meeting in Chennai, Mr. Kharge said the prime ministerial candidate could be decided later.

In recent times, there has been unity among Opposition leaders on major issues. Recently, 14 political parties filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the misuse of central agencies to target Opposition leaders. They also came together in their opposition to the disqualification of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi from parliamentary membership.

It remains to be seen if Mr. Stalin can seize the current momentum and build consensus among the non-BJP parties to put up a united front to take on Mr. Modi and the BJP. But he is hard-pressed for time.

No arrests or convictions in TN for custody deaths in recent years

Scheduled Castes disproportionately affected more in custodial violence in Tamil Nadu

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan & Rebecca Rose Varghese

Last week, a new case of custodial torture surfaced in Tamil Nadu, causing anger and horror throughout the State. The gruesome nature of the charges levelled against Ambasamudram Assistant Superintendent of Police Balveer Singh, which includes breaking the teeth of detenues (persons held lawfully in custody) and crushing their testicles, brought back memories of the brutal treatment in 2020 of a father and son at the Sattankulam police station in Thoothukudi, after which the duo died.

Tamil Nadu has a long history of police excess. According to data from the Lok Sabha, 478 deaths were reported while suspects were in judicial or police custody between 2016-17 and 2021-22 (up to February 28), as shown in **Map 1**. In the past six years, Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number of fatalities (2,580) in judicial/police custody among all the States, while Tamil Nadu reported the highest number among the southern States. In total, 11,419 such deaths were recorded in India in the period considered. It is important to note, though, that not all custody deaths are due to police excess.

On Wednesday, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin ordered suspension of the police officer. While swift action has been promised by the government, data show that rarely have police officers been convicted in cases related to custodial torture, illegal detentions and custodial deaths. Police officers have rarely been held accountable for custodial violence not just in Tamil Nadu but throughout India.

As shown in **Chart 2,** in India, only 286 magisterial/judicial enquiries were ordered into the deaths in police custody/lock up for both persons on remand and not on remand between 2017 and 2021. In this period, only 114 policemen were arrested in relation to such deaths and only 79 were charge sheeted, according to the National Crime Records Bureau. However, not a single policeman was convicted. In the same period, Tamil Nadu conducted 39 magisterial/judicial enquiries into deaths in police custody. But no policeman was charge sheeted, arrested or convicted in these cases.

On Wednesday, in response to a special call attention motion, Mr. Stalin stated that "the (State) government would not make any compromises when it came to the violation of human rights at police stations." As seen in past data, convictions of State police personnel have been rare in cases of human rights violations. **Chart 3** shows that only 25 cases of human rights violations related to illegal detention and torture/causing hurt/injury were filed against police personnel in India between 2017 and 2021. Sixteen police personnel were charge sheeted and 15 were arrested for such violations in this period. In India, only three policemen were convicted.

Another distressing fact is that Tamil Nadu held the highest number of detenues in India – 1,775 detenues, as on December 31, 2021. This number was much higher than the number in the State ranked second on the list (**Table 4**). Moreover, in Tamil Nadu, the share of Scheduled Caste detainees was significantly disproportionate to the community's population. About 37% of the detenues were Scheduled Castes in 2021 in the State, while the community's share in the State's population was 20%. This imbalance was also seen in Gujarat, though to a lesser degree, among States with a high number of detenues. This shows that the issue of custodial violence in which detenues are beaten up or even killed is also disproportionately affecting the Scheduled Castes in Tamil Nadu.

Getting away with torture

The charts and maps are collated from the National Crime Records Bureau, the Prison Statistics India 2021 and the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha answers

Map 1: Deaths reported while suspects were in judicial or police custody between 2016-17 and 2021-22 (up to February 28)

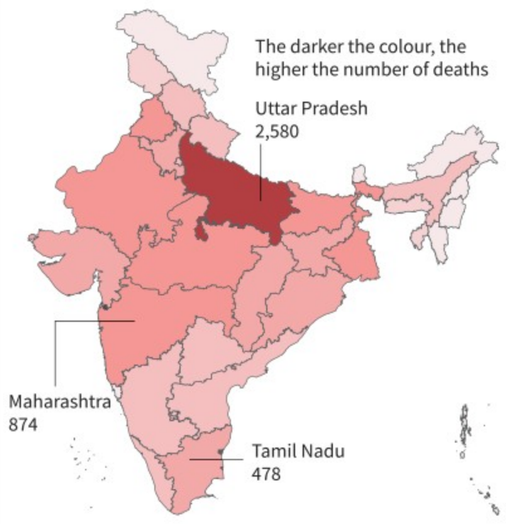


Chart 2: The magisterial/judicial enquiries ordered into the deaths in police custody/lock up, policemen charge sheeted/arrested/convicted between 2017 and 2021 in India

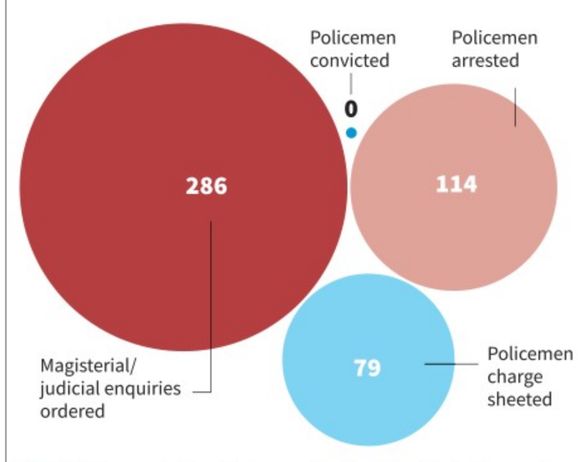
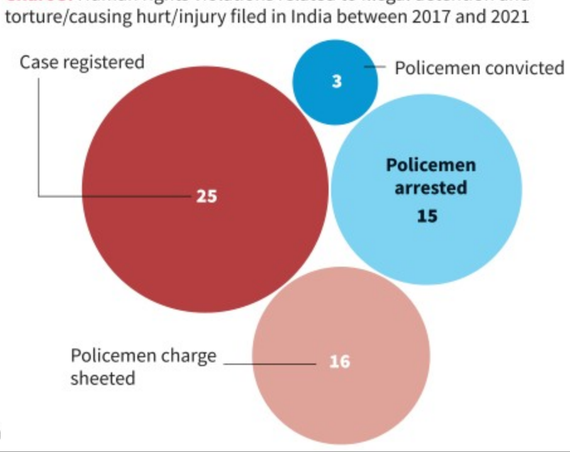


Table 4: About 37% of the detenues were Scheduled Castes in 2021 in Tamil Nadu, while the Scheduled Caste share in the State's population was 20%

State/UT	Total detenues	% of SC in detenues	% of SC in population
Tamil Nadu	1,775	37	20
Gujarat	372	16	7
Telangana	396	8	15
Uttar Pradesh	222	5	21
Jammu & Kashmir	252	5	7

The data was as on December 31, 2021

Chart 3: Human rights violations related to illegal detention and torture/causing hurt/injury filed in India between 2017 and 2021



vignesh.r@thehindu.co.in, rebecca.varghese@thehindu.co.in

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 30, 1973

How Army's "top secret" plan leaked out

New Delhi, March 29: A "top secret" plan in the 1965 war with Pakistan was known to a journalist much in advance of the date of action, Mr. P.V.R. Rao, who was then the Defence Secretary, said to-day. Mr. Rao mentioned this remarking "as many of you know, in Delhi, more secrets have, or at least had, a habit of leaking out at the top." Mr. Rao went on to say that the plan had travelled. To his utter surprise he received a phone call on behalf of the President enquiring whether our troops had gone into action on the Amritsar Front according to the "top secret" plan. He said that he was told that a person high up in the Army Hq. had briefed a pressman who "confided" it to a local political leader, who in turn "dropped in to see the President." Mr. Rao said "the mania to take under special patronage particular press correspondents was not a weakness confined to top politicians only." Mr. Rao, who was giving a lecture on "India's defence policy and organisation since independence" referred to this instance of "leak at the top" after stating the "once action was decided upon, the Prime Minister (Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri) did not seek any information regarding operational plans, as he readily accepted the desire for Secrecy." The lecture, second in the series, was organised by the United Service Institution of India. - PTI

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 30, 1923

Ceylon reforms

London, March 29: In the House of Commons, replying to Mr. F.C. Linfield (Liberal) Major Ormsby-Gore said that despatches with regard to the revision of the constitution had been submitted to the Legislative Council of Ceylon and the matter would be further considered when the Secretary of State received a report of the proceedings of the Council. It was not proposed to give the Commons, special opportunity to debate the proposals which could be discussed on the Council Office estimates. Colonel Wedgewood asked: "As two members of the Ceylon Legislative Council are at present in England, will a Deputation be received with a view to their submitting their opinions to the Secretary of State?" Mr. Gore replied that he would be very glad to receive the deputation after the Easter holidays.

From Page One

Karnataka poll on May 10; results on May 13

All parties have already begun their poll campaigns in the State.

Karnataka has seen a number of political turns since the last Assembly election was held in 2018, when the BJP had emerged as the single largest party with 104 MLAs. However, the Congress and the Janata Dal (S), with 80 and 37 legislators respectively, along with some Independents and smaller parties, had come together to form the government.

The next twist came after the 2019 Lok Sabha election, when the BJP-led NDA won 26 out of 28 Lok Sabha seats from the State, while the Congress-led UPA won just two. Following this, on July 1, two Congress MLAs – Ramesh Jarkiholi and Anand Singh – submitted their resignations. Subsequently, over the next few days, 10 Congress MLAs and three JD(S) MLAs resigned. High drama followed as the ruling coalition tried to keep its flock together. It failed and the government fell, after which the BJP formed the government in Karnataka.

Vote from home for seniors

This time around, a total of 58,282 polling stations will be set up in the State for the Assembly election, out of which 1,320 polling stations will be managed by women officials. There will be an average of 883 voters per polling station.

The State has a total electorate of 5.24 crore with an almost equal gender ratio. Out of this, 1.5 lakh are above 80 years old and 5.6 lakh have been identified as persons with disability.

The CEC said that the facility of voting from home would be made available to voters above 80 years of age as well as for persons with disabilities. Efforts are also being made to ensure 100% participation of the State's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

Replying to a question on the concerns raised by Opposition parties on electronic voting machines or EVMs, Mr. Kumar said that the Commission would keep convincing them as the entire process would be done in front of party representatives. "How can you rig the process in front of everybody? Whenever doubts come, we will try to convince all," he added.

No bypoll in Wayanad for now, says EC

Mr. Gandhi had been disqualified – and the Wayanad seat deemed vacant by the Lok Sabha Secretariat – after his conviction and sentencing for two years by a local court in Gujarat in a 2019 defamation case last week.

The CEC also quoted the relevant Section of the Representation of the People Act under which bypolls have to be announced within six months from the date of notification of vacancy.

Though Mr. Gandhi has not yet approached a higher court for appeal, Congress sources have said he will do so soon. If an appellate court then stays his conviction or reduces his sentence, his disqualification will also stand suspended.

HC acquits all accused in Jaipur blasts case

On May 13, 2008, eight ammonium nitrate-based bombs, which were strapped to bicycles, went off at seven places in the Walled City within a span of 20 minutes. The explosives were packed with metal splinters or ball bearings to carry out heavy damage in crowded areas.

In December 2019, a special court in Jaipur awarded capital punishment to Mohammed Saif, Mohammed Sarwar Azmi, Saifur Rehman and Mohammed Salman after holding them guilty of planting the bombs and carrying out the explosions. The fifth accused, Shahbaz Ahmed, charged with sending an e-mail claiming responsibility for the blasts, was acquitted by the trial court for want of evidence.

The High Court said on Wednesday that though it was cognisant of the heinousness of the crime, a conviction could not be recorded in the absence of any serious investigation and proof as per law. "The more heinous the crime, the stricter should be the scrutiny," the Bench observed, while affirming that the conviction could not be done on suspicion alone. The court also upheld the acquittal of the fifth accused, recorded by the trial court in 2019, and accepted the plea of one of the accused that he was a minor.

The judgment, delivered after a 48-day-long hearing on the appeals filed by the four persons and the death reference moved by the State government, stated that there was no evidence to prove the allegation of travel of the accused between Delhi and Jaipur and their purchase of the bicycles. The identification of the accused by key witnesses was not reliable, according to the court.

The e-mail allegedly sent by Mr. Ahmed taking responsibility for the blasts on behalf of Indian Mujahideen was inadmissible in law, said the court, while upholding his acquittal. Besides, the court accepted the claim that Mr. Salman was a minor at the time of the offence, as this plea was also allowed by the Juvenile Justice Board.

Additional Advocate General Rajesh Maharshi said that the State government would file a special leave petition in the Supreme Court, challenging the acquittal. The Bench directed all the five persons to be set at liberty if not required in any other case or for any other purpose.

SC slams 'silence of state' on 'vicious circle' of hate against minorities

Centre pushes back and asks the court why it did not take *suo motu* cognisance of a video clip of Kerala child; Justice Joseph stresses the need to separate religion and politics and adds that hate speech strikes a mortal blow to dignity

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday slammed the "silence of the state" on spiralling incidents of hate speeches made against minority communities, including Muslims.

However, the Centre pushed back, and asked the court why it did not take *suo motu* cognisance of a video clip from Kerala showing a child being made to threaten Hindus and even Christians.

When a Bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and B.V. Nagarathna asked the Maharashtra government for an explanation about hate speech incidents in the State, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta asked the court to take a moment and see what was happening in other States such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

"A spokesperson of the DMK party says that if you want equality you should butcher all the Brahmins.... No FIR has been registered. He continues to be a spokesperson of the party... Now, please hear this clip from Kerala. This is shocking. It should shock the conscience of this court. A child has been made to say this. We should be embarrassed. He says 'Hindus and Christians should prepare for final rites'," Mr. Mehta addressed the court.

"Yes, we know," Justice Joseph responded. "Then Your Lordships should have taken *suo motu* cognisance," Mr. Mehta said.

Justice Joseph said the country was caught in a "vicious circle of hate" and the solution lay in expunging religion from politics. "The moment religion is separated from politics, all this will stop," Justice Joseph said.

But Mr. Mehta refused

> Unfortunately now, people with no stuff in them, fringe elements from every side are making hate speeches... where are you taking India?
>
> **K.M. JOSEPH**
> Supreme Court judge

to agree that hate had anything to do with politics. "No, this has everything to do with politics. Politicians make use of religion," Justice Joseph stood firm.

Justice Nagarathna said hate speeches have made cracks in the idea of fraternity. She said hate speeches were made by "fringe elements" of all sides who have "no stuff in them".

"When Vajpayee and Nehru spoke, people came from rural areas to hear them... Unfortunately now, people with no stuff in them, fringe elements from every side are making these hate speeches... where are you taking India? Now are we going to start taking contempt action against every person in India... where are we taking this court... is there no restraint on freedom of speech... If there is intellectual deprivation, you can never take this country to the number one position in the world. Intellectual deprivation comes only when there is intolerance, lack of knowledge and lack of education. That is where we should concentrate first... We should as a society take a pledge to restrain ourselves from saying these things," Justice Nagarathna said. Justice Joseph said "before we think of trying to be a superpower, we should first follow the rule of law". The court said hate speech strikes a mortal blow to dignity.

"The most important thing is dignity. If it is demolished on a regular basis... look at the statements being made 'Go to Pakistan'... They are people who chose this country. They are like your brothers and sisters. Remember what you pledged in school 'All Indians are my brothers and sisters... Maybe I am too old-fashioned... I am retiring in four months, turning 65... Seventy-five years ago we as a nation started a journey. Our objective was to be a country that will follow the rule of law... We should never go down to that level of hate," he said.

Lawyers flay Rijiju, ask him to withdraw remarks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Over 320 lawyers on Wednesday issued an open response to Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju's "hectoring and bullying" of retired "activist' judges at a media house conclave by calling them part of an "anti-India gang". They asked him to withdraw his "outrageous" remarks and "threats" unbecoming of his office.

It was signed by senior advocates like Iqbal Chagla, Janak Dwarakadas, Kapil Sibal, A.M. Singhvi, Dushyant Dave, Arvind Datar, Raju Ramachandran, C.U. Singh, Sriram Panchu, R. Vaigai, Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Nitya Ramakrishnan, Prashant Bhushan and others.

They said he had made it clear that "no voice of dissent will be spared". "We may remind the Minister that criticism of the government is neither against the nation, nor unpatriotic, nor 'anti-India'," the response said.

Bypolls to one Lok Sabha, 4 Assembly seats on May 10

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Wednesday announced bypoll to the Lok Sabha constituency of Jalandhar as well as four Assembly seats, to be held on May 10.

The four Assembly constituencies where byelection will be held are Jharsuguda (Odisha), Suar, Chhanbey (Uttar Pradesh) and Sohiong (Meghalaya). The results will be declared on May 13. The Jalandhar seat had fallen vacant after the death of Congress MP Santokh Singh Chaudhary. He passed away following a heart attack.

The bypoll to Odisha's Jharsuguda Assembly seat was necessitated following the death of Naba Kisore Das, who was shot dead by a police officer in January.

In Uttar Pradesh, the Suar Assembly seat fell vacant following the disqualification of Samajwadi Party MLA Abdullah Azam Khan, while Chhanbey is going to the polls after the death of its sitting Apna Dal MLA Rahul Prakash Kol due to cancer.

Get data on attacks on Christians in two weeks, SC tells govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

It sought data on action taken regarding FIRs, status of probe and arrests in the incidents

The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave the Home Ministry exactly two weeks to collate data on action taken by at least eight States regarding the registration of First Information Reports, status of investigation, arrests and charge sheets filed in incidents which petitioners allege are attacks targeting the Christian community.

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud pointed out that the order to collate the details and file a report in the court was given to the Ministry in September last year. Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, for the Ministry, said some of the States took time to respond.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, for petitioners Rev. Dr. Peter Machado of National Solidarity Forum, Rev. Vijayesh Lal of Evangelical Fellowship of India and others, said attacks against Christians had seen an "exponential rise" post 2022. "Christians are attacked and FIRs are filed against Christians," Mr. Gonsalves submitted. He said "priests are arrested. FIRs are filed against Christians and they are struggling to get bail".

'No FIR filed'

He said there was an explosion of community hate in certain sections of the media and rallies. Mr. Gonsalves said the court had ordered the appointment of nodal police officers to keep a watch on hate and even prevent it from manifesting by filing FIRs against the perpetrators. "Not a single FIR has been filed," he said.

The court finally listed the case on April 14. The eight States in question are Bihar, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

India is indeed the mother of democracy, says Modi citing Mahabharata, Vedas

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Asserting that India is "indeed the mother of democracy", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that democracy refers not just to a structure but also the spirit of equality.

In a virtual address to the Summit for Democracy, co-hosted by the U.S., Costa Rica, the Netherlands, South Korea and Zambia, Mr. Modi claimed that the Mahabharata, the Vedas and all historical references prove that non-hereditary rulers first existed in India.

"The idea of elected leaders was a common feature in ancient India, long before the rest of the world," Mr. Modi said at the plenary session of the summit, where leaders of about 40 countries gave national statements.

The Prime Minister had earlier referred to India as the "mother of democracy" in his speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2021, countering the generally held perception that the Athenian city-state, founded in Greece in the 6th century BC, which gave the terms Demos and Kratos to mean people's rule, preceded it.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the Summit for Democracy, via video conferencing, on Wednesday. PTI

Duty of citizens

Mr. Modi said in the Mahabharata, "the first duty of citizens is described as choosing their own leader" and the Vedas dated much earlier, "speak of political power being exercised by broad-based consultative bodies".

He also referred to recent commitments by India on climate change and the COVID-vaccine programmes as "people-driven". "India, despite the many global challenges, is the fastest growing major economy today. This itself is the best advertisement for democracy in the world," he added.

India was among about 120 countries invited to the second edition of the virtually held Summit for Democracy.

Pakistan, which was invited again, declined to attend for the second time, ostensibly due to the exclusion of China.

PFI tells UAPA tribunal it helped people build resilience against IS propaganda

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Popular Front of India (PFI), which was banned under the anti-terror Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) last year, has told a UAPA tribunal that it has been "organising public campaigns to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes to help people build resilience against the IS propaganda".

A UAPA tribunal, in an order dated March 21, upheld the ban against the PFI and other associated organisations. One of the grounds for the Union Home Ministry to declare the PFI an "unlawful association" was its linkages with global terrorist groups such as the Islamic State (IS) and the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

Defensive mode: A file photo of a sealed Popular Front of India (PFI) party office in Hyderabad. PTI

The PFI, in its defence, submitted that in 2017, the National Investigation Agency (NIA), while probing a 2016 case pertaining to an IS recruit, shared digital evidence with the defence lawyer "that the accused had plotted conspiracies against PFI leaders as they were against IS".

The submissions, which were part of the UAPA tribunal order, said, "The PFI had expressed anguish and concern against killings taking place every day in the name of Islamic State in its National General Assembly held on January 24, 2016."

A Home Ministry official deposed that the September 27, 2022 notification to ban the PFI was based on information and material received from intelligence and investigating agencies of the Centre and the States and the decision was passed by the Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 25. A Cabinet note was prepared 15 days prior.

Ashok Agarwal, counsel for the PFI, submitted that the evidence produced by the Union government reflected that it did not have any material with it prior to issuance of the September 27, 2022 notification and the intention to ban the organisation was "pre-decided."

The All India Imams Council informed the tribunal that it was founded in 2012 and was not associated with the PFI. It submitted that "extremism does not know any religious or national boundaries" and it "had opposed the emergence of IS".

Was pressured by CBI, but never raised a hue and cry, says Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that even when the CBI "was putting pressure" on him to frame Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a "fake" encounter case during the tenure of the UPA government, he and the BJP did not raise a "hue and cry" over it.

He drew a contrast between the BJP and the Opposition parties' charge that the government was misusing Central agencies, while speaking at a conclave organised by a television network. "I have been a victim of misuse of Central agencies. In the case dealing with fake encounter, 90% of the questions were about framing Prime Minister Modi. I was told by interrogators, why are you getting worried, just name him and you will be set free. I got bail, fought the case that had been transferred to Mumbai from Gujarat and was acquitted," Mr. Shah said.

Neither BJP leaders nor its MPs wore black clothes or jammed up Parliament despite the fact that these were trumped-up charges, he said. "In the Congress's case, the Centre has not put any false cases, and the conviction of Rahul Gandhi is on a defamation case," the Minister said.

He also ruled out the possibility of any electoral alliance in Karnataka."The BJP has never questioned the seniority of Yediyurappa. He will be the star campaigner. Elected MLAs will decide their leader," he added.

Army to get satellite, will help provide mission critical data

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Contract worth ₹2,963 crore entered into with NewSpace India Ltd. to develop the satellite

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed three contracts worth ₹5,400 crore – two with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) worth ₹2,400 crore for procurement of Automated Air Defence Control and Reporting System 'Project Akashteer' for the Army and Sarang Electronic Support Measure (ESM) systems for the Navy. Another ₹2,963-crore contract is with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Department of Space, for an advanced communication satellite, GSAT 7B, for the Army.

"The geostationary satellite, being a first-of-its-kind in the five-tonne category, will be developed indigenously by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)," a Ministry statement said. The satellite will considerably enhance the communication capability of the Indian Army by providing mission critical beyond line of sight communication to troops and formations as well as weapon and airborne platforms, it stated.

The contract for 'Project Akashteer' is worth ₹1,982 crore.

Lakshadweep MP reinstated; court disposes of petition

Mohammad Faizal's plea had said that the Lok Sabha Secretariat had failed to withdraw the disqualification notification despite the fact that his conviction was stayed by Kerala HC on Jan. 25

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday disposed of a writ petition filed by Lakshadweep MP Mohammad Faizal against his disqualification from the Lok Sabha, in light of a notification issued earlier in the day by the Lok Sabha Secretariat reinstating him in Parliament.

A Bench led by Justice K.M. Joseph said the court was not pronouncing anything on the maintainability of the petition filed by the Nationalist Congress Party MP. The case was originally listed before the Bench, including Justice B.V. Nagarathna, on Tuesday.

NCP MP Supriya Sule with party MP from Lakshadweep Mohammad Faizal at the Parliament House complex in New Delhi. PTI

In his petition, Mr. Faizal had said that the Lok Sabha Secretariat had failed to withdraw the disqualification notification issued against him despite the fact that his conviction was stayed by the Kerala High Court on January 25.

"The petitioner is constrained to invoke the extraordinary jurisdiction of this court under Article 32 of the Constitution against the unlawful inaction on the part of the respondent, Secretary General of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, in not withdrawing the notification dated January 13, whereby the petitioner was disqualified from his membership of Parliament," Mr. Faizal's petition had said.

A Kavaratti court had sentenced him to 10-year rigorous imprisonment for attempting to murder Mohammed Salih, son-in-law of late Union Minister P.M. Sayeed, in 2009.

Congress confident of win in Karnataka election, says Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday refused to name his party's chief ministerial candidate for the upcoming Karnataka Assembly election, even while expressing confidence that the Congress would form the next government in the State.

Newly elected MLAs would decide on a CM after the election, as naming a candidate would lead to internal fights, he added.

The Congress president also took on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's jibe accusing Opposition parties of corruption, claiming that it was Mr. Modi who was running a *bhrashtachari bhagao abhiyan* (make the corrupt flee campaign).

Speaking to reporters on the Congress' prospects in Karnataka, Mr. Kharge said, "I can't give you give an exact number, but can say that we will form the government."

"After the election, views of the MLAs would be taken and then the High Command will prepare a strategy and decide who will be made the Chief Minister. It won't be declared before as that leads to rivalries," Mr. Kharge said.

Hitting back at the PM for calling Opposition parties corrupt, the Congress chief said, "He [Mr. Modi] is supporting corrupt people, so it is like the pot calling the kettle black."

'Opposition parties have to ignore small differences and focus on bigger danger'

Rahul Gandhi's disqualification from the Lok Sabha is a wake-up call to pull people out of their complacency, says Congress general secretary, adding that the Opposition is working more closely than ever to fight anti-democratic dictatorship

INTERVIEW

K.C. Venugopal

Sobhana K. Nair

Coalition politics will always have different views and ideologies but the Opposition parties are standing together now more than ever, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said. He said the consensus was that there should be unity for the 2024 general election too. Excerpts:

Rahul Gandhi's disqualification from the Lok Sabha seems to have given a leg-up to Opposition unity. Do you believe this will endure till the 2024 general election?

Indian democracy is facing a serious danger. The way in which the Modi government is targeting all Opposition members, misusing the agencies – ED, IT and CBI – and now taking the disqualification route, is alarming. This is an extraordinary situation. Therefore, every Opposition party believes that small differences should be left behind to fight the anti-democratic, dictatorship. Mr. Gandhi's disqualification is a wake-up call to pull people out of their complacency. I don't want to speculate on whether this unity will endure or not, all I can say is that definitely the Opposition parties are working more closely than ever. Look at the joint petition that 14 parties filed in the Supreme Court. The consensus is that there should be a unity for the 2024 general election too.

Though you say that there is a general consensus on Opposition unity, the ideological differences are difficult to ignore. The latest example was Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray) reaction to Mr. Gandhi's Savarkar remarks.

In coalition politics, there will be different point of views and ideologies. When we are facing a bigger danger, we have to be focused on that. And this is not unusual, look at the Congress and the Left parties, we can't walk together in Kerala, but here in Parliament, we are standing shoulder to shoulder against the BJP government here.

But have the differences between you and Shiv Sena settled?

Every party has its own ideology – which is non-negotiable. When we formed the coalition government in Maharashtra with the Shiv Sena, there were questions, but we worked out a common minimum programme to come together. We have to respect each other's ideologies.

What will be Rahul Gandhi's new address?

Those who walked along with him and interacted with him during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Kanniyakumari to Kashmir, have seen the depth of his compassion and intellect. The yatra was a setback for the BJP's malicious campaign against him and this is worrying them. As far as the house is concerned, he has already started packing whatever little worldly possession he has. Several leaders, party workers and the public at large have opened their doors for him.

(Read full interview at bit.ly/venugopalcongress)

Pandemonium continues, both Houses adjourned

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid disruptions and sloganeering, the Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed an amendment to the Competition Act and introduced the Forest Conservation (Amendment) Bill and then referred it to a joint select committee.

Parliament would now meet on Monday as the sitting on Friday was called off since Thursday was a holiday for Ram Navami.

In the morning, the Lok Sabha was adjourned within minutes as Opposition members rushed to the Well of the House soon after proceedings started at 11 a.m. Biju Janata Dal (BJD) member Bhartruhari Mahtab, who was in the Chair, adjourned the House until noon.

The Rajya Sabha in the morning adjourned within five minutes. Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar informed the House that he received eight notices under Rule 267 but could not reveal details amid din.

Adani issue

In the afternoon, the Upper House met amid Opposition members' protests inside the House demanding a Joint Parliamentary Committee to probe the Adani stock controversy. As the disruptions continued, Mr. Dhankhar adjourned the House till Monday.

Rajya Sabha member and Shiv Sena leader of the Uddhav Thackeray faction, Sanjay Raut, met Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi at the Congress Parliamentary Party office in Parliament to discuss the fallout of Mr. Gandhi's remark on Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. "We have placed our views and I think we will respect each other sentiments," Mr. Raut told reporters.

Protests flare on forest Bill decision

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023 sent to a select committee amid strong protest from the Opposition, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, who heads the Standing Committee on Science, Technology, Environment and Forest, called it "yet another subversion of Parliament", accusing the government of deliberately bypassing the parliamentary panel on the subject.

Mr. Ramesh also wrote a letter to Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar against the decision.

Mr. Ramesh told *The Hindu*, "If the Bill falls fairly and squarely in the subjects covered by the standing committee concerned and yet the Bill gets referred to a select committee for a blatantly political purpose why continue as Chairman of the standing committee."

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam-691 583
Phone: 914762666722 to 733, e-mail: contact@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com
TENDER NOTICE
For more details, please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2023_KMML_566581_1	For the supply of Petal A1 with Mouth Flange in welded condition

Chavara 29.03.2023 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 1) Re-E-Tender 137_/2022-23/SE/PHC/CHN, 2) Re-E-Tender 138_/2022-23/SE/PHC/CHN. **1) Jal Jeevan Mission - Ernakulam** - WSS to Ramamangalam, Marady and Pambakuda (part) Panchayaths - Providing functional House connections to all households, Construction of OHSRs, Laying Distribution lines etc.- General Civil Work 2) Kuttampuzha (Package-I) Providing Functional Household tap connections in Kuttanpuzha Panchayath - Pipeline Work. **EMD :** Rs. ₹ 5,00,000/- each. **Tender fee :** Rs. 19518 each. **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 10-04-2023 03:00 pm. **Phone :** 0484-2360645.
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
KWA-JB-GL-6-1981-2022-23 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kochi

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता बाँध खण्ड–प्रथम माही परियोजना, बाँसवाड़ा
क्रमांक : अ.अ./बाँध–I/माही/लेखा–1/2023/ 730 दिनांक :– 17/03/2023
ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या 20 वर्ष 2022–23
खण्ड अन्तर्गत विभिन्न निर्माण कार्यो हेतु इच्छुक बोलीदाताओं से दिनांक 10.04.2023 को सायं 06.00 बजे तक ऑनलाईन निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है। निविदा में वर्णित कार्य से सम्बन्धित विवरण व अन्य शर्ते बेवसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in एवं www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/wrd, पर देखी जा सकती है।
UBN:- WRD2223WSOB02808
DIPR/C/4422/2023 अधिशासी अभियन्ता

1/5671016/2023
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Information Public Relations (C) Department, Thiruvananthapuram
No:C2/43/2023/I&PRD Dated:28-03-2023
Ente Keralam-2023
Attention Designers / Fabricators
In order to publicize the development and welfare initiatives of the Kerala government, it has been decided to conduct 'Ente Keralam' Exhibition & Trade Fair 2023 - under the leadership of Information and Public Relations Department. The event will commence in the first week of April in Ernakulam and conclude in the last week of May in Thiruvananthapuram. The fair is to be held for at least 7 days in each district. Designs are invited from interested agencies to design & fabricate PRD's stalls in the fair in all districts, except Ernakulam under the theme 'Kerala First'. While preparing designs priority should be given to the achievements of Kerala Government in which Kerala is in first position in India. The maximum area for this is 1500 square feet. Design selection will be based on the design, technology options, color scheme, layout, visitor engaging elements and innovative materials used for content presentation. An agency can submit more than one design. Designs should be presented in original color. Eligibility criteria for participating agencies has been published on the Department's website (www.prd.kerala.gov.in). Interested agencies should submit their designs and make a presentation before the Judging Committee on April 4, 2023 at 11 AM in the PR Chamber of I&PRD in the Secretariat. The agency submitting the selected design should also submit the estimate before the committee. The selected agency should also carry out its fabrication works. The expenditure for this will met by the department subject to assessment at the level concerned.
For more information:
Phone no. 0471 2518013, 2518447, 9447971832
Sd/- SUBHASH T V, IAS, DIRECTOR

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
Adv. No.72/D3/CE/TTD/2022-23, NIT No.424/SE-II/2022-23 & 115 /SE-III/2022-23 Dated: 28/03/2023
Name of the works : (1) Disposal of Dry Waste generated from Tirumala (Balance Work). **Open tender type**, Time for Completion 96 Months. **(2)** Balance work of re-construction of Sri Venkateswara Temple at Yanam in Puducherry U.T., **Amt: 570.00 Lakhs**. Time for Completion 12 Months
Note: For full details log on to the website https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in/ or http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in
Roc No.PR4/13952/Adv. No.452/PRO/2023,DT.29.03.2023 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Regional Institute of English, South India
Jnanabharathi Campus, Bengaluru-560 056
APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR TWO DISTANCE MODE PROGRAMMES
1. ONE YEAR POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING (PGDELT)
Qualification: Graduation in any discipline **Course fee: Rs.10,000/-. Application fee: Rs.250/-**
2. ONE YEAR DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH COMMUNICATION (DIEC)
Qualification: PUC/10+2 Pass.**Course fee: Rs.4,000/- Application fee:Rs.250/-.** Courses commence from-**01.06.2023**. Registration closes on- **31.05.2023.**
For more details, call **080-35101131 or e-mail: riesi.bangalore@gmail.com, riediploma@gmail.com** or visit the website: **www.riesi.ac.in**
Sd/- DIRECTOR

Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre
(A Regd. Society of Govt. of Karnataka)
Major Sandeep Unnikrishna Road, Near Yelahanka
Attur Layout, Bengaluru - 560 064. Phone : 080 - 6735 5000
No. : KSNDMC/ACT/13/2020 Date: 24.03.2023
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
KSNDMC invites tenders for the following through e-procurement portal
1) Tender No. : KSNDMC/TECH/08/2020 for Supply, Installation and maintenance of digital dashboard and dissemination system in Karnataka.
The tender document and details on pre bid meeting and last date for submission can be obtained on e-procurement portal of GoK. https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.
Sd/- Director

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 69-72/2022-23/PHC/KNR (Retenders), **Jal Jeevan Mission - Kannur District** - Thripangottur panchayath - Construction of 14 LL GLSR, Kunnothuparamba panchayath - Construction of 19 LL GLSR, Chokli Grama Panchayath - Construction of 13.5 LL GLSR - Peravoor and adjoining panchayath Zone III (Kolayad (Part), Chittariparamba panchayaths - Laying Distribution system and Providing FHTCs. **EMD :** Rs. 500000/- Each, **Tender fee :** Rs. 19518/- Each. **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 17-04-2023 03:00 pm, **Phone :** 04972705902.
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
KWA-JB-GL-6-1982-2022-23 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kannur

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PWD ZONE-I JAIPUR
PWD Campus, Jacob Road, Infront of Jaipur Club, Jaipur (O) 0141-2223525
No. : ACE-I/Zone-I/Short Term NIT No. 24/2022-23/D-2872 Date : 21-3-2023
SHORT TERM NIB No. 24/PMGSY/2022-23
Bids for 02 Nos. Package No. for widening and strengthening road Jhunjhunu are invited from invited from interested bidders upto 12:00 noon on dated 06.04.2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the state; and **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in** and **http://pwd.pmgsytendersraj.gov.in**. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 993.63 lac
UBN .....
PWD2223WLOB19298
PWD2223WSOB19299
(D. K. AGARWAL)
Additional Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/4572/2023 **P.W.D. Zone-I Jaipur**

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग कोटा
क्रमांक: 4415 दिनांक: 21.03.2023
अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या 25/पीएमजीएसवाई/2022-23
NIB No. PWD202223A4821
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजनान्तर्गत स्वीकृत सड़कों के चौड़ाईकरण एवं सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य एवं ब्रिज कार्य के निम्नलिखित कार्यों मय पांच साल की मरम्मत के लिए 18 पैकेज हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्युरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in व http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। पैकेजवाईज यू.बी.एन संख्या निम्नानुसार है

1. PWD2223WSOB19227	2. PWD2223WLOB19230	3. PWD2223WSOB19232
4. PWD2223WSOB 19237	5. PWD2223WLOB19241	6. PWD2223WSOB19244
7. PWD2223 WSOB19247	8. PWD2223WLOB19252	9. PWD2223WSOB19256
10. PWD2223WSOB19259	11. PWD2223WLOB19271	12. PWD2223WLOB19274
13. PWD2223WLOB19275	14. PWD2223WSOB19279	15. PWD2223WLOB19280
16. PWD2223WLOB19281	17. PWD2223WLOB19282	18. PWD2223WLOB19283

इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक है।
(नारायण सिंह मीणा) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, सा.नि.वि. संभाग – कोटा
DIPR/C/4809/2023

राष्ट्रीय इस्पात निगम लिमिटेड
RASHTRIYA ISPAT NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
VISAKHAPATNAM STEEL PLANT
आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
Ph:+91 891 2519503/3500234 Ext.21015,
email:a_chowdhury@vizagsteel.com/kandregula@vizagsteel.com/ketha_mm@vizagsteel.com
GLOBAL TENDER NOTICE NO.Pur.23.17.0002/0001 DT:28.03.2023
Global Tender Notice for Supply of 'IMPORTED COKING COAL' (HCC)
GLOBAL TENDER NOTICE NO.Pur.23.17.0006/0003 DT:28.03.2023
Global Tender Notice for Supply of 'IMPORTED COKING COAL' (SCC)
Sealed tenders are invited for supply of **1.** 150,000 (One Lakh Fifty thousand) MT of '**Imported COKING Coal' (HCC)** and **2.** 150,000 (One Lakh Fifty thousand) MT of '**Imported COKING Coal' (SCC)**with a Shipping Tolerance of +/-10% as per the specifications indicated in Tender document.
Last date & time for receipt of Tenders: 19.04.2023 by 10.30hrs(IST)
Tenderers who are interested to participate in the tender can download the tender document from the website **WWW.VIZAGSTEEL.COM (under MM->MM Tenders)** and submit their offer before 10.30 hrs IST on **19.04.2023** as per the instructions given in the Tender document. In case of difficulty in downloading of Tender document, the Tender document shall be sent by Post free of cost on written request from the Tenderer.
GENERAL MANAGER (MM)I/C
For more details & corrigendum please visit regularly www.vizagsteel.com

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग भरतपुर
क्रमांक: अमुअ/भरत/त.स./2022-23/डी-4357 दिनांक: 21.03.2023
अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या 29/(पीएमजीएसवाई-III)(Batch-II)/2022-23
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से प्रधानमन्त्री ग्राम सड़क योजना (पीएमजीएसवाई-III) (Batch-II) के अन्तर्गत सड़क चौड़ाईकरण एवं सुदृढ़ीकरण हेतु मय पांच साल की मरम्मत के लिए प्रतिशत दर के अनुसार कुल 10 पैकेज अनुमानित लागत राशि रू. 5986.42 लाख के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्युरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से अल्पकालीन ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वेबसाईट www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in, "www.sppp.raj.nic.in व www.pmgsytendersraj.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता हैं।
इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजीटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट www.pmgsytendersraj.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक है।
NIB No. PWD2223A4823
UBN-PWD2223WLOB19228 UBN-PWD2223WLOB19231 UBN-PWD2223WLOB19234
UBN-PWD2223WSOB19239 UBN-PWD2223WLOB19246 UBN-PWD2223WSOB19249
UBN-PWD2223WSOB19254 UBN- PWD2223WSOB19257 UBN- PWD2223WSOB19264
UBN- PWD2223WLOB19261
DIPR/C/4685/2023 अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता सानिवि संभाग भरतपुर

Office of The Chief Engineer, Water Resources Zone, Kota
Sr. No. F. 64/CEWRZ/RPS&JS/e-NIB 22/2022-23/ 3697 Dt. 24-03-2023
Short Term E-NIB No.- 22 / 2022-23
Bids for *Strengthening of face wall from ch. 1 to ch 10 of Bundi ka Gothra Dam Tehsil Hindoli District Bundi & Re-Construction of damaged face wall & Strengthening of face wall ch.10-ch19.25 of Bundi ka Gothra dam Tehsil Hindoli District Bundi (Rs. 852.11 Lacs)* is invited from interested bidders from 25.03.2023 (9:30 Hr) to 04.04.2023 till 18:00 Hr other particulars, terms & conditions may be seen on the procurement portal https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & https://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in & www.water.rajasthan.gov.in.
UBN No. :- WRD2223WLOB02850 Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/4755/2023 Water Resources Zone, Kota

INBRIEF

Chandrapur's teakwood sent to Ayodhya for Ram temple

The first consignment of teakwood logs procured from the thick forests of Chandrapur and Gadchiroli in Maharashtra was dispatched to Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh for use in the Ram temple amid grand celebrations on the 16-km stretch between Ballarpur forest depot and Chandrapur. Maharashtra Forest and Environment Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar told *The Hindu* that the superior quality teakwood, which is being provided through the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited, will be sent to Ayodhya in five or six batches by May.

Report on Mufti's daughter sent to passport office: CID

The Crime Investigation Department (CID) of the J&K Police has told the Jammu and Kashmir High Court that police verification report regarding the passport of PDP president Mehbooba Mufti's daughter, Iltija, was forwarded to the passport office in February. The CID sought dismissal of the writ petition filed by Ms. Iltija over the delay in issuance of passport. "The final police verification report was forwarded to the Regional Passport Officer (RPO) on February 16. The petitioner has wrongly impleaded (CID) as a party. The CID has a mere informative role in the passport proceedings and neither any relief has been nor could be sought from it," the counsel for the CID told the court.

Collegium rejects judge's plea to retain her at Madras HC

The Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, has rejected a request made by Justice V.M. Velumani to retain her as the Madras High Court judge. The Collegium, by its resolution dated September 29, 2022, had proposed to transfer Justice Velumani to the Calcutta High Court. Justice Velumani had sought reconsideration of the recommendation. In another resolution, the Collegium accepted the request of Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma to be transferred to the Punjab and Haryana High Court from the Patna High Court.

Another blow to BJP in Pune as Girish Bapat passes away

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Lok Sabha MP for Pune, Girish Bapat, passed away on Wednesday after a long illness, at the age of 72. He was admitted to the Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital on Wednesday morning and put on life support, but succumbed soon after. His demise is the third major setback for the BJP in Pune district in less than four months; the party lost two influential leaders, then Kasba Peth MLA Mukta Tilak and its sitting Chinchwad MLA Laxman Jagtap in December 2022 and January this year, respectively. Mr. Bapat, known as an astute leader, held the tricky Kasba Peth Assembly segment for five consecutive terms between 1995 and 2019.

'No evictions for Great Nicobar project'

Government says 7.114 sq. km of tribal reserve area is proposed to be utilised for the project, but that is subject to protection of interests of tribespeople; L-G of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has constituted a committee to review impact of project

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government will not allow the displacement of tribespeople to make way for the ₹72,000-crore Great Nicobar island project, the Tribal Affairs Ministry told the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

The project, being implemented by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO), includes a transshipment port, an airport, a power plant, and a greenfield township.

In November 2022, the project received Stage 1 clearance to divert 130.75 sq.km. of forest land for the purpose. FILE PHOTO

In response to a question from Trinamool Congress MP Sushmita Dev, Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Bishweshwar Tudu said that a total of 7.114 sq. km of tribal reserve area will be utilised for the project.

In November 2022, the project had received Stage 1 clearance from the Union Environment and Forest Ministry to divert 130.75 sq.km. of forest land for the purpose.

However, the Tribal Affairs Ministry said that the utilisation of tribal reserve area will be subject to the interests of the local tribespeople living in the area, especially the Shompen tribe, which is classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).

In its reply, the government said the utilisation of the tribal reserve area will be subject to the following conditions: "The interests of tribal population especially Shompen, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group are not affected adversely; strict implementation of the provisions of Protection of Aborigine Tribe (PAT) Regulation to protect the interest of the Shompen; the displacement of tribals will not be allowed; and eco-tourism will be regulated in an effective manner."

Further, the government said that the Lieutenant-Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands had already constituted an Empowered Committee to obtain views and consultations on the impact of the project.

Amritpal Singh calls for Sarbat Khalsa in video

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

A purported video of fugitive pro-Khalistan preacher Amritpal Singh surfaced on social media platforms on Wednesday, in which he is seen appealing to the chief priest of Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of Sikhs, to hold a Sarbat Khalsa (congregation of Sikhs) to discuss issues related to Punjab and the *quom* (the Sikh community).

The 30-year-old, who gave the police the slip on March 18, said his arrest was in the hands of the almighty.

Haj pilgrims can undergo screening at govt. hospitals

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a first such move, the Ministries of Minority Affairs and Health will jointly hold health camps for Haj pilgrims this year.

It is being done with a view to ensure quality health support to pilgrims, the Minority Affairs Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

The medical screening of Haj applicants and issuance of fitness certificate can be done by any government allopathic medical doctor in States and Union Territories. This will ease the process of getting medical screening certificates across the country, the Ministry said.

For the medical screening, applicants have to submit X-ray and blood test reports and specify if they have any medical history, including hypertension, diabetes mellitus, cancer, cardiovascular disease, epilepsy, any type of chronic renal failure, asthma, mental disorder and immunosuppressive disorder.

Apart from COVID-19 vaccination, selected pilgrims (more than two years of age) are required to possess a certificate of inoculation with a single dose of the cerebrospinal meningitis vaccine.

Earlier, the pilgrims could get their health certificates and vaccination from private centres only, as there was no separate facility available at government hospitals.

Vivacity and truth shine through Vivan's works; activism is at their heart

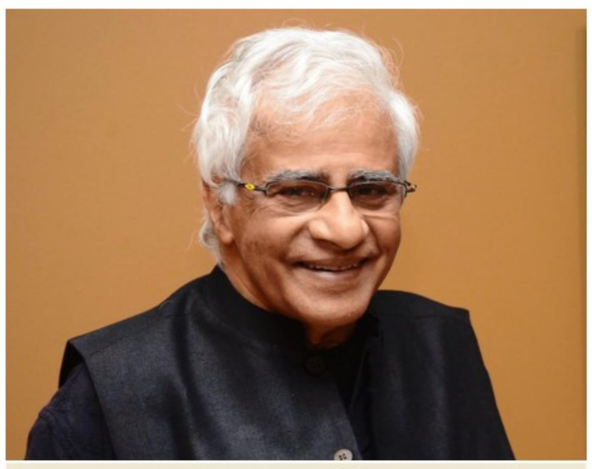
Uma Nair
NEW DELHI

One of the most influential artists of his generation, Vivan Sundaram passed away in Delhi on Wednesday after a brief illness. A prolific artist, thinker, and activist, his works referred to perception, memory and constantly engaged with socio-political realities of the world.

In the last six decades, he created projects with varied aesthetics, involving the use of photographs, found objects, video, and three-dimensional constructs. When you saw a work of Sundaram, it was almost impossible to look away from its vivacity and truth. He did not try to knead his secular politics and inclusive world view into his art; activism was the heartbeat of his oeuvre.

Born in 1943 in Shimla to Kalyan Sundaram, former chairman of the Law Commission of India, and Indira Sher-Gil, sister of the enigmatic artist Amrita Sher-Gil, he studied painting at the faculty of Fine Arts, M.S. University of Baroda and at the Slade School of Art, London. At the Slade, he also developed a love for world cinema.

Active in student politics in the U.K., he was influenced by the anti-imperialism and anti-consumerism wave in Europe and would often describe himself as the child of May 68,



VIVAN SUNDARAM (1943-2023)

a time of civil unrest in France and widespread protests in many parts of the world. On his return to India in 1971, Sundaram collaborated with artists and student groups to galvanise events and protests, especially during the Emergency years. He was one of the founding trustees of the Safdar Hashmi Memorial Trust.

Unique installations

A pioneer of installation art, when Sundaram created installations in the 1990s, many senior artists did not understand his sensibility and philosophy. But he had his own ideas and his most important installation, *Memorial* (1993-2014), reached Tate Modern London and garnered praise for its depiction of the common man in an increasingly polarised world.

Most of Sundaram's iconic works explore the human condition between politics and history. They have a kind of flatness, which is televisual rather than painterly. He worked with unusual materials such as charcoal and engine oil.

The earliest example of his installation work is the *Engine Oil* series (1991), which references the assault of the U.S.-led coalition forces on Iraq in order to gain control of oil resources. His most important works include *Re-Take of Amrita*, an archival family album, a photographic souvenir of the distant past.

One of his last projects was when he was specially commissioned to mark the Sharjah Biennial's 30th-anniversary edition.

He is survived by his wife, art-historian critic Geeta Kapur.

(Uma Nair is a noted art critic and curator)

NCLAT upholds ₹1,338-crore penalty imposed on Google

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Wednesday upheld the ₹1,337-crore penalty imposed on Google by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

While holding that the investigation did not violate principles of natural justice, the tribunal set aside certain directions issued by the CCI.

The tribunal quashed the directions relating to the non-monetary directives that would have forced the tech giant to allow uninstalling of Google's pre-installed apps on Android devices.

It set aside directives that would have forced the company to allow developers of app stores to distribute their app store through Google Play Store.

The tribunal set aside orders directing Google to allow app developers to distribute apps through side-loading, and not deny access to its play services Application Programming Interface (APIs) to disadvantage Original Equipment Manufacturers, app developers, and its existing or potential competitors.

The CCI on October 20, 2022 fined Google for its anti-competitive practices and abusive conduct in the Android mobile device ecosystem.

Respect territorial integrity, Doval tells SCO member nations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

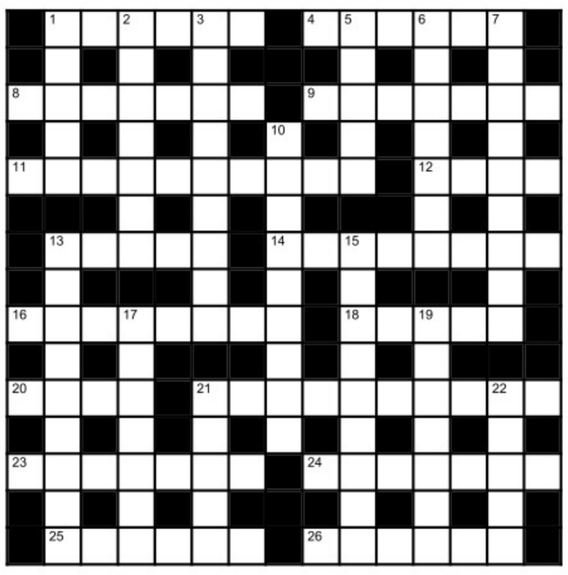
International connectivity projects should respect "sovereignty and territorial integrity" of the nations, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval said on Wednesday. At the 18th meeting of the Secretaries of the Security Councils of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, Mr. Doval focused on terror financing and called upon member countries to support UN Security Council resolutions. "Connectivity is a priority for India. We are ready to cooperate on building connectivity. While expanding connectivity, it is important to ensure that such initiatives are consultative, transparent and participatory and respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries," he said. China and Pakistan participated through video link.

TH CROSSWORD + 13826

(set by Bruno)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Fits bits of fastener and handheld drill separately to many equal parts (6)
4 A great number in Computer Science have skills (6)
8 Worker left underwear pile at a school with nightwear (7)
9 Type of coat that is mostly cute elsewhere (7)
11 12ac struggles to get into special gown for interstellar transport (5,5)
12 Headwear comes with essentially green cloak (4)
13 Headwear from Togo? (5)
14 Humour about silly dope at University getting destroyed (5,3)
16 Junkie wearing western-type garment (8)
18 Group of Joe six-packs extremely likely to include even racists! (5)
20 Slick episode featuring fancy headgear (4)
21 Type of garment from this waste product inundated river (10)
23 Medical examiner cutting edge of hair off - starting to test headgear (7)
24 Stripper's outfit and tax-band? (1-6)
25 Fabric's oddly drab on facewear (6)
26 Someone ate nothing clean? (6)

Down

1 Purify batter - remove oil in the middle and make breakfast dish (3-2)
2 Spooner's pet door has top cover (4,3)
3 Deep ache I nurtured for protective wear? (9)
5 Ploy to conserve energy is one way to be green (5)
6 LAX's first 2 flights to Northernmost Canada blocked by a police force (7)
7 Tax to clean dusty apt? Million sunk in! (5,4)
10 Seaman's hat or shoe often has urethane at the top with another chemical compound (9)
13 Asked to include human resources fee - on review it was triple! (9)
15 Courtesy of politician 50% reduced, less when leader is off, gone finally (9)
17 Official clothing of International organization's chief mandarin needs to accommodate multiple conditions (7)
19 Girl's into money - having been raised after one's become rich (7)
21 Corrective instrument for small muscles (5)
22 Argument ending in plain destruction all round (3-2)

SUDOKU

5			7		9		4	
	1			4				9
				8		7		
9		6	8					7
2								6
8					4	2		3
		7		3				
4				7			3	
	9		6		8			4

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS5753 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	9	8	1	7	6	3	5	2
1	2	3	4	8	5	9	7	6
7	5	6	2	9	3	1	4	8
2	1	5	7	3	9	6	8	4
6	8	9	5	4	2	7	1	3
3	7	4	6	1	8	2	9	5
8	4	7	3	6	1	5	2	9
5	6	1	9	2	4	8	3	7
9	3	2	8	5	7	4	6	1

FAITH

The power of Ramayana

The Ramayana is the most powerful sacred literature in Sanathana Dharma. It is said that the sanctity is derived from the fact that the Ramayana embodies the Vedas as well as the Gayatri Mantra, the most powerful chant. When he rendered the Ramayana, Valmiki took the first syllable of the four Vedas: Ra from Rig, Ma from Sama Veda, Ya from Yajur Veda and Na from Adharvana Veda and named the work as Ramayana, said Dhamal S Ramakrishnan in a discourse.

Mathru Devo Bhava: there is no greater God than one's mother. Likewise Gayatri Mantra, with its 24 words is the mother of all mantras.

Thus, anyone reading or listening to the Ramayana will reap the spiritual benefit of both listening/ reciting the Vedas and Gayatri mantra.

Lord Narayana who came down to earth as Rama to both inculcate values and show by example the way to follow them, Himself listened to the rendering of Ramayana. Why did He listen to Ramayana rendered by His sons Luv and Khush. Why were the boys born and raised in a forest?

Vedanta Desika says that Sita and Valmiki were both born out of bhoomi (Sita was found as a baby by Janaka) while Valmiki was 'born' out of an anthill, and as such they were siblings and it was only natural that Sita should have Her confinement in the family abode.

When Rama listens to the twins rendering, He says it is not My story, but that of Sita's, her high nature. "Listening to this has given Me immense peace of mind," He says.

Likewise, Sita hears a portion of the Ramayana and gains her mental fortitude.

EDINBURGH

Humza Yousaf sworn in as new leader in Scotland amid party row

GETTY IMAGES

Humza Yousaf was sworn in as Scotland's first minister on Wednesday, becoming the first Muslim leader of a government in western Europe but already facing unrest in his party. The new first minister vowed to "well and truly serve His Majesty King Charles" III, despite his stated support for abolishing the monarchy. AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. Senate passes repeal of Iraq war authorisations after 20 years

REUTERS

U.S. senators advanced cross-party legislation on Wednesday to repeal Authorisation for Use of Military Force (AUMF) for the wars in Iraq — 20 years after American forces invaded the country. The repeals passed by 66 votes to 30, with 18 Republicans crossing the aisle to back the Democratic-led initiative. AFP

WASHINGTON

Twitter restricts Marjorie Greene's account over 'vengeance' post

Twitter has temporarily restricted the congressional account of Marjorie Taylor Greene, a member of the House of Representatives in the United States, after the lawmaker tweeted a graphic that referred to a "Trans Day of Vengeance" following the school shooting in Nashville this week. AFP

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Parliament adopts Bill to curtail powers of Chief Justice

In a bid to rein in the top judiciary, Pakistan's Parliament on Wednesday passed a Bill to curtail the powers of the Chief Justice regarding *suo motu* cases and the constitution of Benches. This comes a day after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif told lawmakers that "history would not forgive us" if they did not act on it. PTI

China threatens retaliation if Tsai and McCarthy meet

Taiwan President is expected to stop over in Los Angeles on April 5 while returning from her tour of Central America and meet Kevin McCarthy, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives

Associated Press
BEIJING

China has threatened "resolute countermeasures" over a planned meeting between Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen and Speaker of the U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy during an upcoming visit in Los Angeles by the head of the island.

Ms. Tsai framed the trip as a chance to show Taiwan's commitment to democratic values on the world stage, as she left Taiwan Wednesday afternoon to begin her 10-day tour of the Americas.

"I want to tell the whole world democratic Taiwan will resolutely safeguard the values of freedom and democracy, and will continue to be a force for good in the world, continuing a cycle of goodness, strengthening the resilience of democracy in the world," she told reporters before she boarded the plane. "External pressure will not obstruct our resolution to engage with the world."

Bon voyage: Tsai Ing-wen (centre) waving before departing on an overseas trip at Taoyuan Airport in Taipei on Wednesday. AP

Ms. Tsai is scheduled to transit through New York on March 30 before heading to Guatemala and Belize.

On April 5, she's expected to stop in Los Angeles on her way back to Taiwan, at which time the meeting with McCarthy is tentatively scheduled.

'Concrete actions'

Spokesperson for the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office Zhu Fenglian at a news conference on Wednesday denounced Ms. Tsai's stopover on her way to diplomatic allies in Central America and demanded that no U.S. officials meet with her.

"We firmly oppose this and will take resolute countermeasures," Ms. Zhu said. The U.S. should "refrain from arranging Tsai Ing-wen's transit visits and even contact with American officials, and take concrete actions to fulfil its solemn commitment not to support Taiwan independence," she said.

Transit visits through the U.S. during broader international travel by the Taiwanese President have been routine over the years, senior U.S. officials in Washington and Beijing have underscored to their Chinese counterparts.

In such unofficial visits in recent years, Ms. Tsai has met with members of Congress and the Taiwanese diaspora.

Sri Lanka's key ambulance service, gifted by India, seeks 'adoption'

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

"Will you adopt a 1990 Suwaseriya ambulance and help save lives?" – bold letters screamed in a half-page advertisement in Tuesday's edition of Sri Lanka's top business daily.

"Due to the current economic situation, the Treasury is unable to fully fund its operations, which may lead to the service being unsustainable in 2023," the advertisement in the *Daily Financial Times* read, requesting corporations and individuals to "adopt an ambulance" at LKR 5 million [roughly ₹12.5 lakh] each.

The urgent appeal for finances to keep Sri Lanka's first pre-hospital emergency ambulance service afloat comes amid the government's efforts to revive its battered economy from last year's devastating financial crash. On March 20, the government secured a nearly $3 billion package from the International Monetary Fund that is to be disbursed over four years.

Solid lifeline: The 1990 ambulance service responds to medical emergencies across the island nation. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Indian grant

The '1990' ambulance service was first launched in 2016 with 88 ambulances in Sri Lanka's Western and Southern Provinces, with an Indian grant of $7.56 million. Within a couple of years, the service expanded island wide with an additional Indian grant of $15.09 million.

After the first batch of some 700 technicians received training in India, the service has been run entirely by Sri Lanka, as a semi-government, not-for-profit organisation under the Ministry of Health.

Today, with a fleet of 297 ambulances, the service provides critical response to medical emergencies across all nine provinces of the country. It has responded to over 14 lakh cases till date, including during the pandemic, and attends to over 1,000 emergencies daily, enhancing the medical care provided by Sri Lanka's acclaimed public health system.

Essential expenditure

While the service had sought LKR 3.9 billion from the government to continue running this year, the Treasury provided just LKR 2.5 billion, official sources told *The Hindu*.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who is also the Finance Minister, has instructed the Treasury to release funds for essential public expenditure, but the government appears to be struggling to fund even crucial requirements, going by the recent appeal for a financial lifeline for the popular ambulance service.

The administration also faces sharp criticism for "withholding funds" necessary to conduct the local government elections that now stand postponed.

Netanyahu, Biden exchange frosty words over legal overhaul

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday rebuffed President Joe Biden's suggestion that the premier "walks away" from a contentious plan to overhaul the legal system, saying the country makes its own decisions.

The exchange was a rare bout of public disagreement between the two close allies and signals building friction between Israel and the United States over Mr. Netanyahu's judicial changes, which he postponed after massive protests.

To Mr. Biden's comment that the Israel "cannot continue down this road", Mr. Netanyahu replied that Israel "makes its decisions by the will of its people and not based on pressures from abroad, including from the best of friends."

Benjamin Netanyahu

Later Mr. Netanyahu struck a more conciliatory tone, saying that while "Israel and the U.S. have had their differences," the alliance between them was "unshakable."

Saudi Arabia agrees to join SCO as a dialogue partner

Agence France-Presse
RIYADH

Saudi Arabia has agreed to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) as a "dialogue partner", state media reported on Wednesday, the latest indication of closer political ties with China. The SCO was established in 2001 as a political, economic and security organisation.

Besides China, its eight members include India, Pakistan and Russia, as well as four central Asian countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The cabinet approved the decision at a meeting on Tuesday chaired by King Salman, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

The move would grant Riyadh "the status of a dialogue partner in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation", it said. Other countries with either observer or dialogue partner status include Egypt, Iran and Qatar. Riyadh's move to partner with the bloc comes less than three weeks after the unveiling of a landmark China-brokered reconciliation deal with Iran.

Mr. Xi's role in the rapprochement raised eyebrows given Saudi Arabia's traditionally close partnership with Washington.

In his first comments on the matter, Mr. Xi said the dialogue promoted by China would "play a major role in strengthening regional cooperation".

'No impunity for deaths of migrants'

Agence France-Presse
MEXICO CITY

Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador vowed on Wednesday during his daily press briefing that there would be "no impunity" for those found responsible for the death by fire of 38 migrants.

UN atomic watchdog chief returns to Ukraine nuclear plant, might visit Russia

Associated Press
DNIPRO

The head of the United Nations' atomic energy watchdog returned on Wednesday to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, a day after saying a deal to protect Europe's largest nuclear power facility from a catastrophic accident due to the war in Ukraine was "close."

International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi crossed the war's front lines for a second time to reach the plant, which is located in a partially Russia-occupied part of Ukraine where combat has intensified.

The IAEA, which is based in Vienna, Austria, has a rotating team permanently based at the plant. Mr. Grossi said in an interview on Tuesday he feels it is his duty to ramp up talks between Kyiv and Moscow aimed at safeguarding the facility. He met on Monday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and said he would "most probably" head to Moscow in the coming days.

The negotiations are specific to preventing a nuclear disaster at the plant, says General Grossi

The Kremlin's forces took over the six-reactor plant after Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. Mr. Grossi repeatedly has urged Mr. Zelensky and Russian President Vladimir Putin to allow a protection zone around the plant, which is very near the front line of the war.

The negotiations are specific to preventing a nuclear disaster at the plant and not aimed at securing a broader cease-fire, Mr. Grossi said.

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-9
COMMAND TANK NO.4, SEC-20 DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110075,
आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव

Press NIT No. 84(2022-23)/EE(T)M-9

S. N.	Name of work	Amount put to tender	EMD (Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date / time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Desilting of Peripheral Sewer lines below 1000 mm dia (450 mm dia to 900 mm dia) under command of SPS no. 2 (Sector 11 Dwarka) by deploying Super Sucker Machine in Matiala AC 34 under EE(M)-34. **(Tender I.D. No. 2023_DJB_239095_1)**	Rs. 2,07,36,345/-	Rs. 4,15,000/-	29.03.2023	11.04.2023 upto 3:00 PM
2	Desilting of Peripheral Sewer lines below 1000 mm dia (450 mm dia to 900 mm dia) under command of SPS no. 3 (Sector 24 Dwarka) by deploying Super Sucker Machine in Matiala AC 34 under EE(M)-34. **(Tender I.D. No. 2023_DJB_239095_2)**	Rs. 2,31,33,997/-	Rs. 4,63,000/-	29.03.2023	11.04.2023 upto 3:00 PM
3	Desilting of Peripheral Sewer lines below 1000 mm dia (450 mm dia to 900 mm dia) under command of SPS no. 4 (Sector 16 Dwarka) by deploying Super Sucker Machine in Matiala AC 34 under EE(M)-34. **(Tender I.D. No. 2023_DJB_239095_3)**	Rs. 2,02,79,815/-	Rs. 4,06,000/-	29.03.2023	11.04.2023 upto 3:00 PM

NIT along with all the terms & conditions is available on DJB Web Site https://govteprocurement.delhi.gov.in.
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) **(Satish Kumar)**
Advt. No. J.S.V. 586(2022-23) **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (T)M-9**

Innovation and Incubation Centre for Entrepreneurship (IICE)
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Bhopal
IICE

POSITION - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)

IICE, a Technology Business Incubator (TBI) of IISER Bhopal is inviting applications from eligible candidates for filling up the vacancy of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) (1 Post). The position will be purely on contract basis for a tenure of maximum five (5) years. For further details, please visit the website - https://iice.iiserb.ac.in/careers.php, https://recruitment.iiserb.ac.in/other

IMPORTANT DATES

Start Date of online application - 27/03/2023
End Date of online application - 16/04/2023
Last date of receiving the Hard Copy of the application - 24/04/2023 till 05:00 PM (IST)

Address – 210, 2nd Floor, Plasma (Main) Building, IISER Bhopal Campus, Bhopal Bypass Road, Bhauri, Bhopal – 462066, (M.P.)
Ph. No. – 0755-2692385, Email id – iice@iiserb.ac.in

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in
WBSEDCL

WBSEDCL invites e-Tender as follows:

NIT No.: **WBSEDCL/PROJECT-II/RDSS/2022-23/NIT 03e** Date: **30.03.2023** of the **Chief Engineer (Project-II)**. Estimated Cost: **₹ 3970,38,12,586.81** for the work of 'Development of Distribution Infrastructure for Loss Reduction in fifteen (15) District in West Bengal under Revamped Reforms-Based and Results-Linked, Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)' to be executed in Turnkey Mode under the domestic competitive bidding. ICA- T6815(4)/2023

For details, visit **https://wbtenders.gov.in** & **www.wbsedcl.in**

टीआईएफआर–अनुप्रयुक्त गणित केन्द्र, बैंगलुरू–560065, भारत
TIFR-CENTRE FOR APPLICABLE MATHEMATICS, Bengaluru-560065, India
टाटा मूलभूत अनुसंधान संस्थान
TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH
(भारत सरकार के परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग की स्वायत्त संस्थान एवं समविश्वविद्यालय)
(An Autonomous Institution under the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India and Deemed-to-be-University)
tifr

TENDER NOTICE NO: 14/2022-23

TIFR Centre for Applicable Mathematics invites sealed Tenders from registered, licensed and reputed contractors for providing the following services at the Centre:
(1). Security Services (3). Hiring of Vehicle
(2). Cosmetics Maintenance Services
The last date for submission of tender documents is **24th April 2023 at 16:00 hours.** For further details please visit website **http://math.tifrbng.res.in**
Administrative Officer-E

MINISTRY of CULTURE
GOVT. OF INDIA

NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE
(A Unit of National Council of Science Museums)
Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India
Bhairon Marg, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi- 110 001
Phone: 728693710- 17 website: www.nscd.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
(No. NSCD / 15014 / 8 / E-Tender / 16 / 2022-23)

National Science Centre, a unit of National Council of Science Museums, on behalf of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, invites open online e-tenders from competent and eligible agencies / consortiums having experience in traditional Shilpi Designs on stone sculpture, artworks, murals etc. in galleries of museums, reputed religious/ spiritual places, cultural spaces, and other similar spaces at International/ National/ State Level. The details of the work are as following:

Sl. No.	Name of the work	EMD (INR)	Time of completion
1	Designing and Creation of Traditional Indian Sculptures as Relief Work on Stone Boulders and other features at Shiv Udhyan in Kedarnath Dham, Uttarakhand.	**Rs. 30.00 lakhs** (Rupees Thirty lakhs)	**210 days**

Important e-tender Time Schedule

(i)	Start date of downloading of bids document	March 27,2023 (as per portal time)
(ii)	Pre-bid meeting date time and place	April 11, 2023 at 11.00 AM at NSC, Delhi
(iii)	Last date of submission of Bids	April 20, 2023 (as per portal time)

Interested agencies having financial capabilities and adequate experience in executing similar nature of works as per NIT and enrolled on the e-Procurement module of the Central Public Procurement Portal (URL: **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app),** may participate in the tendering process as per the detail given on the portal and NIT already uploaded on the portal **(having tender id-2023_NCSM_746965_1)** and submit their tender along with EMD on or before closing date.
The Director, National Science Centre, Delhi reserves the right to accept or reject tenders in full or part of any or all tenderers or to cancel the tender in to without assigning any reasons thereof.
Detail of NIT & Tender Document are also available in the website of NSCD i.e. **www.nscd.gov.in**
For further information, please contact: 728693710 to 17 (Extn. 235).

INBRIEF

Russia announces deal to boost oil supplies to India

Russian energy giant Rosneft announced a deal on Wednesday to ramp up oil sales to India, as Moscow seeks new buyers in the wake of tensions with the West over the Ukraine conflict. Rosneft said in a statement that its CEO Igor Sechin had travelled to India and brokered an agreement with the head of the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC). Rosneft, however, did not specify the volumes stipulated in the agreement nor its value. AFP

TI Clean Mobility raises ₹400 cr. to fund EV business

Tube Investments' subsidiary TI Clean Mobility Pvt. Ltd. (TICMPL) has raised ₹400 crore from Multiples Pvt. Equity Fund III (Multiples) and State Bank of India (SBI) to expand its footprint in the electric mobility busines. Multiples has invested ₹266.67 crore and SBI ₹133.33 crore, the Murugappa group firm said in a regulatory filing. The funds would help TICMPL and subsidiaries expand operations through acquisitions and capital expenditure.

Granules gets U.S. FDA nod for copy of Gabapentin tablets

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) has approved Granules India's abbreviated new drug application for Gabapentin Tablets USP, 600 mg and 800 mg. The approved product is bioequivalent to Neurontin Tablets, 600 mg and 800 mg, of Viatris Specialty LLC, the drugmaker said on Wednesday. The current annual U.S. market for Gabapentin tablets is about $145 million, Granules said citing MAT Jan 2023 IQVIA/IMS Health numbers.

SEBI pushes norms to ensure better disclosures, boost transparency

Market regulator's board clears reforms aimed at better protecting investors' interest; from October 1, 2023, top 100 listed companies must confirm or deny price sensitive market rumours; SEBI allows PE firms to own stakes in AMCs

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Securities & Exchange Board of India on Wednesday moved to improve disclosure norms and transparency by mandating that large listed companies must confirm or deny price-sensitive market rumours, and in the case of material board decisions disclose them to exchanges within 30 minutes.

To bring more transparency and to ensure timely disclosure of information by listed entities, SEBI made it mandatory for the top 100 listed companies by market capitalisation to verify, confirm or deny or clarify any market rumours. This would come into effect from October 1. And the top 250 listed entities by market value, would need to adhere to the norm by April 2024.

Eye on investor: SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch unveiled norms to mitigate credit risk and protect investors' funds. PTI

The markets regulator also made it mandatory for upstreaming of clients' funds by stock brokers and clearing members to clearing corporations, a move aimed at protecting retail investors' funds.

"This will mitigate credit risk on intermediaries and risk of potential misuse of clients' funds," SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch told reporters after a board meeting.

Ms. Buch declined to comment on the issues concerning the Adani Group, observing that the matter was in the Supreme Court and that the apex court had asked SEBI to submit a report on the status of the investigation to the committee set up by the court.

SEBI has also now allowed Private Equity (PE) firms to own stakes in Asset Management Companies (AMCs) that operate mutual funds.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	57,960	0.60
US Dollar	82.34	-0.24
Gold	58,740	-0.01
Brent oil	78.53	-0.54

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1740.40	139.55
Adani Ports	636.65	43.25
Apollo Hosp	4363.00	29.40
Asian Paints	2770.50	-13.95
Axis Bank	842.60	10.15
Bajaj Auto	3879.30	87.70
Bajaj Finserv	1246.05	22.90
Bajaj Finance	5625.20	90.75
Bharti Airtel	743.60	-4.85
BPCL	339.85	0.00
Britannia Ind	4276.20	76.20
Cipla	887.70	-1.80
Coal India	212.95	4.05
Divis Lab	2820.25	13.80
Dr Reddys Lab	4567.80	41.00
Eicher Motors	2933.70	81.30
Grasim Ind	1631.70	20.60
HCL Tech	1067.50	26.40
HDFC	2603.05	22.90
HDFC Bank	1587.80	7.60
HDFC Life	495.95	6.25
Hero MotoCorp	2304.15	54.65
Hindalco	399.05	6.15
Hind Unilever	2530.85	48.05
ICICI Bank	851.00	-3.75
IndusInd Bank	1057.10	20.95
Infosys	1383.55	5.95
ITC	382.75	3.00
JSW Steel	678.90	18.90
Kotak Bank	1721.05	22.15
L&T	2147.45	13.85
M&M	1144.30	16.00
Maruti Suzuki	8295.30	86.50
NestleIndia	19052.95	106.95
NTPC	174.00	2.00
ONGC	149.35	2.15
PowerGrid Corp	222.45	0.35
Reliance Ind	2234.70	-13.30
SBI Life	1098.70	7.40
State Bank	516.50	8.40
Sun Pharma	991.90	7.70
TataConsumerProduct	697.55	1.50
Tata Motors	409.20	7.60
Tata Steel	103.60	1.10
TCS	3138.90	23.00
Tech Mahindra	1081.10	10.80
Titan	2515.05	14.75
UltraTech Cement	7570.75	167.65
UPL	707.40	-7.25
Wipro	359.05	2.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 29

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.14	82.46
Euro	89.14	89.49
British Pound	101.36	101.76
Japanese Yen (100)	62.30	62.54
Chinese Yuan	11.93	11.98
Swiss Franc	89.50	89.85
Singapore Dollar	61.79	62.03
Canadian Dollar	60.41	60.65
Malaysian Ringitt	18.56	18.67
Australian Dollar	54.83	55.05

Source:Indian Bank

No charge on normal UPI payments: NPCI

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on Wednesday clarified that the interchange charge of 1.1% on merchant transactions exceeding ₹2,000 done using Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI Wallets) on UPI would 'only be applicable for PPI merchant transactions and there would be no charge to customers'.

"It is further clarified that there are no charges for the bank account to bank account based UPI payments" or normal UPI payments, the NPCI added in a statement.

PPI Wallets had been permitted to be part of the interoperable UPI ecosystem, NPCI said.

"We believe this is a positive development for the Indian economy and the banking system as a whole," said Rajsri Rengan, India Head of Development, Banking and Payments, at FIS.

Centre aims to borrow ₹8.88 lakh cr. in H1 of FY24

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government will frontload most of its gross market borrowings for 2023-24, with a plan to raise as much as ₹8.88 lakh crore of its record ₹15.43 lakh crore borrowing plan for the year in the first six months.

Finalised in consultation with RBI, the borrowing plan for the first half of the coming year thus envisages raising 57.55% of the year's total borrowings in 26 weekly tranches of ₹31,000-39,000 crore.

'Two Adani firms face hard contagion risks'

Mahesh Langa
AHMEDABAD

Global rating agency Fitch said two Adani Group companies viz. Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd. and Adani Transmission Ltd. were exposed to "heightened contagion risks," possibly affecting their financial flexibility on account of weak governance in the group.

The two firms' ratings "would be capped at current rating level of 'BBB-/Stable' till the alleged concerns are ironed out," Fitch said in a report released late on Tuesday.

The credit rating agency held that the debt of Adani Group's rated Indian entities as of end-December was offshore and largely secured, with U.S. dollar bonds maturing only from mid-2024, suggesting there were no immediate concerns about repayment.

Fitch also highlighted that the contagion risk was lower for restricted groups.

Meanwhile, after two straight sessions of losses, stocks of some Adani Group firms recovered on Wednesday with the flagship Adani Enterprises climbing by 8.75% and Adani Ports rising by 7.25%.

'Travel to return to pre-pandemic level in 2023'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Travel will return to pre-pandemic levels in calendar 2023 with a complete recovery trend expected to emerge by June-July itself, forecast VFS Global, a visa services specialist firm.

"Visa application numbers for May-June-July will be a good indicator of recovery," said Prabuddha Sen, COO-South Asia, VFS Global told *The Hindu*. "We expect 2023 to breach pre-pandemic numbers."

Trade deficit with China crossed $71 bn in first 10 months of FY23

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's trade deficit with China touched $71.56 billion in the first 10 months of 2022-23, just $1.7 billion short of the record high of $73.31 billion in 2021-22, data shared by the Commerce Ministry in the Lok Sabha show.

Responding to a query from MP Manickam Tagore on whether the trade deficit with China had been increasing every year, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel said that the trade deficit with China had progressively decreased every year from 2017-18 to 2020-21. "It increased in 2021-22 compared to 2020-21," the Minister added.

"The trade deficit with China in 2004-05 was $1.48 billion, which increased to $36.21 billion in 2013-14," Ms. Patel said in reply to another MP's query.

"Against this massive increase, the trade deficit with China has since increased by only about 102% to $73.31 billion in 2021-22," Ms. Patel said, contrasting the numbers under the present government with that clocked under the previous one.

Most of the imports were capital goods, intermediate goods and raw materials and were used for meeting the demand of fast expanding sectors like electronics, telecom and power, she said.

CIFCL to sell 30.87% in associate firm to TVS SCS

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd. (CIFCL) has entered into an agreement with TVS Supply Chain Solutions (TVSSCS) to sell 30.87% equity shares of associate firm White Data Systems India to the latter for consideration other than cash.

As consideration, CIFCL will be issued 22,35,265 compulsory convertible preference shares of ₹1 each of TVSSCS.

Competition law amended to tighten scrutiny of Big Tech firms

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday cleared the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022, aimed at bringing in greater regulation of corporates, particularly Big Tech firms, by introducing deal value threshold for approvals by the Competition Commission of India (CCI), and enabling cartels to avail of the CCI's settlement mechanism.

A major change in the Bill, that now awaits the Rajya Sabha's nod, is the provision relating to penalties that the CCI can levy. Presently, the CCI can impose a penalty of up to 10% of a firm's average turnover in the "relevant market."

'Global turnover'

Now, the phrase "turnover" will refer to the "global turnover derived from all the products and services by a person or an enterprise" which, experts said, is a highly contentious provision that will result in higher penalties for global multi-product companies.

"The introduction of deal value thresholds will bring transactions involving 'asset lite' and 'low revenue' companies, under the CCI's scrutiny," said Unnati Agrawal, partner at IndusLaw.

Moreover, the settlements and commitments mechanism would ensure swift correction of anti-competitive behaviour and practices and spare "willing and legally compliant companies" to face the rigours of an extensive investigation, she pointed out. The actual implementation of these changes will hinge on the regulations that the CCI will issue, following the Bill's enactment.

Sport

Balachandar stuns top seed Karthik

Sports Bureau

Balachandar Subramanian beat top seed Karthik Karunakaran 4-6, 7-6(4), [10-5] in the semifinals of the National wheelchair tennis championship at the Indore Tennis Club on Wednesday.

In the women's section, top seed K.P. Shilpa won her third and last league match against Sheranthi Thomas 9-1 to triumph in the four-player field.

The results (semifinals): Men: Balachandar Subramanian bt Karthik Karunakaran 4-6, 7-6(4), [10-5]; Shekar Veeraswamy bt Sathasivam Kannupayan 6-1, 6-1. **Doubles:** Mariappan Durai & Karthik Karunakaran bt H Madhusudan & Indrajeet Pandey 6-1, 6-4; B Subramanian & Shekar Veeraswamy bt M Gabriel & S Sureshkumar 6-1, 7-5.

Joseph bowls WI to thrilling series win

Associated Press
JOHANNESBURG

Fast bowler Alzarri Joseph finished off South Africa with three wickets in the 19th over as West Indies won the third T20I by seven runs and took the series 2-1.

Joseph collected five for 40 after his late burst, which ensured South Africa fell short of West Indies' 220 for eight.

South Africa threatened for a moment, mainly because of Reeza Hendricks' 83 from 44 balls, but ultimately only managed 213 for six in its 20 overs.

Hendricks fell to Joseph off the first ball of that 19th over for the crucial breakthrough.

Alzarri Joseph. AP

The scores: West Indies 220/8 in 20 overs (Romario Shepherd 44, Nicholas Pooran 41) bt South Africa 213/6 in 20 overs (Reeza Hendricks 83, Alzarri Joseph 5/40). **PoM**: Joseph. **PoS**: Johnson Charles.

Humpy, Vaishali suffer setbacks

FIDE WOMEN'S GP

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

K. Humpy and R. Vaishali crashed to fourth-round defeats on a day when all boards produced decisive verdicts in the FIDE Women's Grand Prix chess here on Wednesday.

Humpy, playing white against China's Zhu Jiner, overlooked some tactical strokes after Move 20 and eventually surrendered after 36 moves with a bishop less on the board.

Vaishali yielded too much ground to Kateryna Lagno in the middle game in a closed position.

Soon Kateryna traded her rooks for Vaishali's queen and came within seven moves of checkmating her young rival. The Indian resigned on the 40th move.

Aleksandra Goryachkina ended a two-win run for overnight leader Bibisara Assaubayeva by inflicting a 70-move defeat.

Polina Shuvalova scored over Nana Dzagnidze in 52 moves. D. Harika and Georgian Nino Batsiashvili enjoyed a bye.

The results:

Fourth round: K. Humpy (1.5) lost to Zhu Jiner (Chn, 2.5); Kateryna Lagno (FIDE, 2) bt R. Vaishali (0); Polina Shuvalova (FIDE, 2.5) bt Nana Dzagnidze (Geo 1.5); Aleksandra Goryachkina (FIDE, 2) bt Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz, 2); D. Harika and Nino Batsiashvili (Geo, 0.5) bye.

Aravindh beats Murzin, takes lead

DELHI INTL. CHESS

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

Aravindh Chithambaram took a giant step towards winning the Delhi International chess title when he defeated fellow joint-leader Volodar Murzin and opened a half-point lead going into Thursday's 10th and final round.

The top-board battle in the ninth and penultimate round lasted 40 moves when Murzin, outplayed by the more experienced Indian, resigned.

Aravindh is followed by five overseas challengers at eight points.

Further half a point behind are 14 players, including 10 Indians.

Since Aravindh does not enjoy the best tie-break score after nine rounds, he cannot be sure of winning the title with a final-round draw.

Leading results:

Ninth round: Arvindh Chithambaram (8.5) bt Volodar Murzin (FIDE, 7.5); Levan Pantsulaia (Geo, 8) bt Neelash Saha (7); Deepan Chakkravarthy (7.5) drew with Kiheil Mchedlishvili (Geo, 7.5); Kirill Stupak (FIDE, 7) lost to Boris Savchenko (FIDE, 8); Anuj Shrivatri (7) drew with Michal Krasenkow (Pol, 7.5); Luka Paichadze (Geo, 8) bt Ameya Audi (7); Aleksej Aleksandrov (FIDE, 8) bt S. Nitin (7); Almas Rakhmatullaev (Uzb, 7) lost to Alexei Fedorov (FIDE, 8); S.P. Sethuraman (7.5) bt Eldiar Orozbaev (Kgz, 7).

Areeba and Angad placed 16th

Sports Bureau

Areeba Khan and Angad Vir Singh Bajwa shot a combined score of 131 and placed 16th in mixed skeet in the shotgun World Cup in Larnaca, Cyprus, on Wednesday.

The other Indian team of Raiza Dhillon and Man Singh had a total of 125 and placed 22nd among 32 teams.

Nadine Messerschmidt and Sven Korte of Germany, who had to win a shoot-off against the formidable team of Kimberly Rhode and Dustan Taylor to make the gold medal match, went on to beat the qualification toppers from Cyprus Anastasia Eleftheriou and Petros Englezoudis 6-4 for the gold.

SEALING IT

Litton and Shakib sizzle, give Bangladesh unassailable lead

Shakib Al Hasan took five and Litton Das hit a quickfire half-century as Bangladesh hammered Ireland by 77 runs in the second T20 to seal the three-match series 2-0 in Chittagong on Wednesday.
The scores: Bangladesh 202/3 in 17 overs (Litton 83, Talukdar 44) bt Ireland 125/9 in 17 overs (Campher 50, Shakib 5/22).

BREEZY

Alcaraz and Medvedev cruise into quarterfinals in Miami

Carlos Alcaraz charged into the quarterfinals of the ATP Miami Open with a convincing 6-4, 6-4 victory over Tommy Paul on Tuesday but second seed Stefanos Tsitsipas was knocked out by Karen Khachanov. Taylor Fritz defeated Holger Rune 6-3, 6-4. Daniil Medvedev beat Quentin Halys 6-4, 6-2. Jannik Sinner beat Andrey Rublev 6-2, 6-4.

A CENTURY

Messi completes 100 career goals for Argentina

Lionel Messi surpassed the 100-goal mark for Argentina on Tuesday with his first strike before completing a seventh hat-trick for the national team in a 7-0 thrashing of Curacao at the Santiago del Estero, Argentina, on Tuesday. Messi now has 102 and remains third in the all-time list, behind Cristiano Ronaldo (122) and Iran's Ali Daei (109).

ELITE CLUB

Ferguson, Wenger inducted into Premier League Hall of Fame

Former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson and ex-Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger became the first managers to be inducted into the Premier League Hall of Fame. Ferguson, 81, is the most successful manager in Premier League history, guiding Manchester United to 13 titles, while Wenger won the competition three times with Arsenal.

Titans cover all bases, look better in title defence

The team needs to find a swashbuckling opener between Wade and Saha to complement Gill; skipper Hardik has a bevy of all-rounders to choose from Smith, Jayant, Tewatia, Vijay Shankar and Sai Kishore to beef up the middle-order; Shami will spearhead the bowling which has Rashid as an attacking option

IPL-16 COUNTDOWN

M.R. Praveen Chandran

Gujarat Titans winning IPL 2022 on its debut with an inexperienced captain was one of the biggest success stories of Indians sports in the last season. But having ascended the summit without any expectations, Titans will be under pressure to defend the title this season.

In the IPL mini-auction, Titans made some smart buys, the notable ones being Kane Williamson, Shivam Mavi and Odean Smith, to cover all its bases and to prevent any downturn in form. In fact, this season the Gujarat side has a better squad.

Last season, Titans topped the league with 20 points from 10 wins and four losses. They crushed Rajasthan Royals by an identical margin of seven wickets in both Qualifier-1 and final.

Titans' batting line-up was flexible and it batted deep last season. The presence of big hitting all-rounders and finishers in the lower order stood the team in good stead. Titans will stick to the same game plan this season too.

Ready to rock: Titans got down to business under the watchful eyes of Nehra and Kirsten. VIJAY SONEJI

GUJARAT TITANS
Game-Changer
Hardik Pandya was inspirational for Gujarat Titans in its debut season. He showed no nerves during his maiden assignment as captain and relished the big role
He has the skills to change the course of a game as a batter, bowler and fielder. After adding a new weapon - the inswinger - to his repertoire, Hardik has been taking wickets regularly in the middle overs. His form with bat and ball in the recent series against Australia augurs well for Titans
Hardik's positive attitude is infectious and can lift the whole team
CHAMPION 2022
THE DUGOUT
Hardik Pandya (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Rahul Tewatia, Mohammed Shami, Shivam Mavi, Yash Dayal, R. Sai Kishore, Abhinav Manohar, Wriddhiman Saha, Matthew Wade, K.S. Bharat, Jayant Yadav, Vijay Shankar, Mohit Sharma, Darshan Nalkande, Urvil Patel, Sai Sudharsan, Pradeep Sangwan, Rashid Khan, David Miller, Alzarri Joseph, Kane Williamson, Josh Little, Odean Smith and Noor Ahmad
HARDIK PANDYA
GUJARAT TITANS' 2023 FIXTURES
March 31 vs. CSK 7.30 p.m Ahmedabad
April 4 vs. DC 7.30 p.m. Delhi
April 9 vs. KKR 3.30 p.m. Ahmedabad
April 13 vs. PBKS 7.30 p.m. Mohali
April 16 vs. RR 7.30 p.m. Ahmedabad
April 22 vs. LSG 3.30 p.m. Lucknow
April 25 vs. MI 7.30 p.m Ahmedabad
April 29 vs. KKR 3.30 p.m. Kolkata
May 2 vs. DC 7.30 p.m. Ahmedabad
May 5 vs. RR 7.30 p.m. Jaipur
May 7 vs. LSG 3.30 p.m. Ahmedabad
May 12 vs. MI 7.30 p.m. Mumbai
May 15 vs. SRH 7.30 p.m. Ahmedabad
May 21 vs. RCB 7.30 p.m. Bengaluru

Stellar Miller

Captain Hardik Pandya led from the front and topped the batting chart with 487 runs. However, it was the stellar display of David Miller, who enjoyed his best season in IPL with 481 runs, that helped the team to cross the line in some tough chases.

The South African will be keen to continue from where he left off. But Miller will miss Titans' opening match against Chennai Super Kings on March 31 as he will be playing the series against the Netherlands. It was a breakthrough season for Shubman Gill who impressed as an opener.

Gill has been in a rich vein of form recently and comes into IPL high on confidence. But Titans will have to find a swashbuckling opener to complement Gill. Matthew Wade and Wriddhiman Saha had varying degrees of success as openers in the last edition and it is one area where the options for Titans are somewhat limited.

Sai Sudharsan acquitted himself well in the few games he played.

The calm Williamson will lend stability to the middle-order. Hardik has a bevy of all-rounders – Smith, Jayant Yadav, Rahul Tewatia, Vijay Shankar and Sai Kishore – to beef up the lower-order or choose the impact player from.

Mohammed Shami will spearhead Titans' bowling attack which has left-arm medium-pacer Yash Dayal, the lively Mavi and skiddy Darshan Nalkande in its ranks. Besides, Irish cricketer Josh Little, a bustling left-arm medium-pacer, can surprise the opposition.

The wily Rashid Khan will again be the attacking option for Hardik in the middle-overs. His teammate and left-arm wrist-spinner Noor Ahmad will lend variety. Left-arm spinner Sai Kishore has a proven record of strangulating the batters in the middle-overs.

But the scheduling has been pretty unkind to Titans who will be travelling a lot this season. Titans play every second match away from home and it could be unnerving for the players. Titans needs to cleverly manage the workload of players. However, playing in front of a huge home crowd at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad could work in the team's favour.

From Impact Player to DRS for wides and no-balls: the new rules for IPL 2023 explained

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Cricket is a game of many variables: luck at the toss, the pitch, dew factor and home advantage to name a few. But with a raft of changes, Indian Premier League 2023 looks set to sport a more controlled look, and potentially become more of a level-playing field. A look at a few of them:

What is the Impact Player innovation and how does it work?

At the toss, in addition to the playing XI, teams have to name five substitutes, one of whom can replace a player in the starting XI at any point during the match. The on-field umpire will signal the introduction by crossing his hands above his head. The replaced player can take no further part in the match, even as a substitute fielder. The innovation was first trialled in the 2022-23 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, but the Impact Player had to be introduced before the 14th over of the innings.

Out of the box: The introduction of Impact Player will have the captains and coaches on their toes.

Who can be the Impact Player?

An Indian, unless a team starts with three or fewer overseas players. This is to ensure that in any situation, a team can only use four foreign cricketers, a standard in place since IPL's inception.

When can the Impact Player come in?

Before the start of an innings, at the end of an over, at the fall of a wicket or when a batter retires. However, if the bowling side introduces the Impact Player during an over – at the fall of a wicket or when a batter retires – he will not be allowed to bowl the remaining balls of the over.

Does the innovation mean 12 batters can bat?

No. A batting team can replace one of its dismissed/retired batters with the Impact Player but only 11 members can bat. One of the players who is yet to come in will not be able to bat.

How does it work for the bowling team?

When a bowling team brings in the Impact Player, he can bowl the full quota of four overs irrespective of the number of overs bowled by the replaced player. For example, a team can replace a PowerPlay specialist, who has bowled four overs upfront, with a death-overs specialist, who can also bowl four overs.

Can teams name their XIs after the toss?

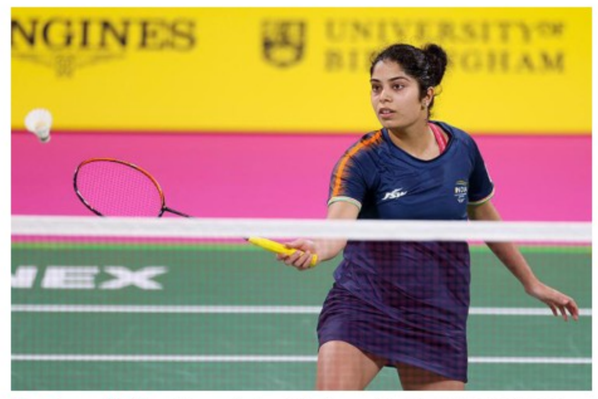
This year, IPL will allow teams to finalise their XIs after the toss, with captains walking out with two different team sheets - one for batting first and the other for bowling. Alongside the Impact Player, this will significantly negate the role of all-rounders, feels Delhi Capitals Head Coach Ricky Ponting.

"You can name a batting or a bowling-heavy team and just take one out and bring the other in. I don't see many teams use the guy who might bat at seven and bowl an over or two," Ponting said.

What are the other changes?

Wide and no-ball decisions can be reviewed using the Decision Review System, though the number of unsuccessful appeals will remain capped at two. It is understood that the IPL will have an in-match over-rate penalty rule, where for every over not completed in the allocated time (90 minutes), there can only be four fielders outside the 30-yard circle, instead of five. However, allowances will be made for injuries, referrals and other circumstances beyond the control of the fielding side.

Aakarshi stuns Li on a good day for Indians



Causing a flutter: It was Aakarshi's day out in Madrid. FILE PHOTO

Press Trust of India
MADRID

P.V. Sindhu and K. Srikanth progressed at the Madrid Masters badminton tournament here on Wednesday. Sindhu eased past Switzerland's Jenjira Stadelmann 21-10, 21-4 while Srikanth defeated Sitthikom Thammassin of Thailand 21-11, 25-27, 23-21.

Aakarshi Kashyap stunned sixth seed Michelle Li of Canada 12-21, 21-15, 21-18.

The duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty withdrew after an injury to the former.

Other results (first round):

Men: B. Sai Praneeth bt Jan Louda (Cze) 21-16, 18-21, 21-12; Priyanshu Rajawat bt Victor Svendsen (Den) 18-21, 21-16, 21-11; Kiran George bt Mithun Manjunath 21-16, 21-14; Sameer Verma bt Nhat Nguyen (Ire) 21-9, 14-21, 21-17.

Women: Malvika Bansod bt Kisona Selvaduray (Mas) 21-19, 16-21, 21-9; Ashmita Chaliha bt Leonice Huet (Fra) 21-12, 22-20.

Doubles: Rena Miyaura & Ayako Sakuramoto (Jpn) bt Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand 21-18, 21-16.

INBRIEF

McTominay stars as Scotland downs Spain

Scott McTominay scored twice as host Scotland claimed a famous 2-0 victory over former champion Spain at Hampden Park in Euro 2024 qualifying on Tuesday, while Croatia 2-0 won in Turkey. It was Scotland's first victory over Spain since 1984 and probably the best result since beating France in 2007.

The results: Group A: Georgia 1 (Mikautadze 60) drew with Norway 1 (Sorloth 15), Scotland 2 (McTominay 7, 51) bt Spain 0; **Group D:** Turkey 0 lost to Croatia 2 (Kovacic 20, 45+4), Wales 1 (Moore 41) bt Latvia 0; **Group I:** Kosovo 1 (Zhegrova 59) drew with Andorra 1 (Rosas 61), Switzerland 3 (Vargas 39, Amdouni 48, Widmer 52) bt Israel 0, Romania 2 (Stanciu 17, Burca 19) bt Belarus 1 (Marozau 86).

SportsCast India telecasting National wheelchair tennis

SportsCast India is the exclusive streaming partner for the first edition of the National Wheelchair Tennis championship currently being held in Indore. The live telecast is available on SportsCast India's YouTube channel.

India loses to Hong Kong, misses out on qualifying

The Indian boys fought valiantly but Hong Kong asserted itself with a 3-0 victory in the last league match of group-C in the Asia-Oceania World junior under-14 tennis tournament in Kuching, Malaysia, on Wednesday. India finished third. India will play Iran in the first play-off match to decide the lower placings from ninth spot.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Jio Cinema App, 7.30 a.m.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

The season's look: RCB players unveiling the team jersey at an event on Wednesday. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

RSPB lifters reign

RSPB secured the senior team championship at the Khelo India Youth, Junior & Senior National-ranking women's weightlifting tournament here.

The junior title went to Maharashtra, while Orissa pocketed the youth trophy.

The results (winners all): Senior: 87kg+: M.T. Ann Mariya (RSPB) 210kg; **junior: 87kg+:** Priti Deshmukh (Mah) 163kg.

Team championship: Senior: RSPB; **junior:** Maharashtra; **youth:** Orissa.

Parikrma blitzes Blitz

Parikrma FC took out Blitz FC 4-1 in the BDFA 'A' division football league at SUFC Academy Ground here on Wednesday.

The results: Parikrma FC 4 (H. Prashanth 11, S. Navaneeth 30, Haris Rahman 72, Arafas 79) bt Blitz FC 1 (Sam Roshan 26).

DYES FC 7 (Ajay Kadam 11, 66, S.A. Chandan 17, 45, N. Brijesh-og 52, Y.G. Sachin 70, C.H. Omprakash 77) bt Tilak Memorial FC 1 (S. Suhail 56).

Karnataka thrashes Gujarat

Karnataka whipped Gujarat 9-1 in the 27th senior women's National football championship at Bangalore Football Stadium on Wednesday.

The results: Manipur 5 (Salam Rina 7, 40, 52, Lynda Kom 45, 90) bt Bihar 0; Karnataka 9 (Maitreyi Palasamudram 7, 9, 25, 29, 45, 90, Monalisha Marandi 21, Kaviya Pakkirisamy 22, 45) bt Gujarat 1 (Khushbu Saroj 49).

Loffhagen packs off top seed Hoang Ly in opening round

WTT MYSURU OPEN

Sports Bureau
MYSURU

Unseeded British player George Loffhagen, capitalised on the unforced errors committed by top seed Nam Hoang Ly of Vietnam and scored an upset 6-3, 6-4 win in the first round on the second day of the M25 WTT Mysuru Open here on Wednesday.

In another upset, unseeded Florent Bax of France defeated sixth-seeded Digvijay Pratap Singh 7-5, 6-3 to progress to the pre-quarterfinals.

Fifth seed Ramkumar Ramanathan pulled out due to a leg injury and was replaced by lucky loser Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugham, who then lost his first round match against Prajwal Dev.

The results:

Men (first round): Oliver Crawford (USA) bt Manish Ganesh 6-1, 6-3; S.D. Prajwal Dev bt Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugham 6-4, 7-5; P. Vishnuvardhan bt V.M. Ranjeet 7-5, 6-4; Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Manish Suresh Kumar 2-6, 6-4, 6-4; George Loffhagen (Gbr) bt Nam Hoang Ly (Vie) 6-3, 6-4.

Vladyslav Orlov (Ukr) bt Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha 4-6, 6-2, 6-3; Rishab Agarwal bt Fardeen Quamar 6-1, 6-1; Ellis Blake (Aus) bt Siddharth Vishwakarma 2-0 (retd.); Florent Bax (Fra) bt Digvijay Pratap Singh 7-5, 6-3.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Dali Blanch & Nicholas Bybel bt A. Deepak & Manish Ganesh 6-0, 6-1; Ishaque Eqbal & Karan Singh bt Grigoriy Lomakin & Woobin Shin 6-2, 6-3; Mukund Sasikumar & P. Vishnuvardhan bt Casey Francis Alcanta & Pruchya Isaro 6-3, 6-2.

India finishes third in the table in U-17 SAFF

ANI
DHAKA

The India U-17 team put up a brave display before eventually going down to Russia in their final game of the SAFF U-17 Women's Championship campaign on Tuesday.

The Young Tigresses finished third on the table, winning two and losing two games in the tournament.

Uzbekistan edges out India

ANI
TASHKENT

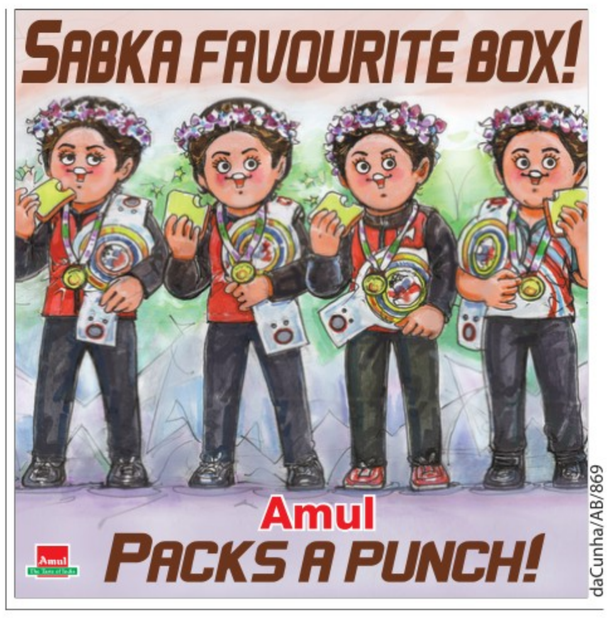
India's senior women's team went down to Uzbekistan 2-3 here in an international football friendly on Tuesday.

Dangmei Grace (22) and Indumathi Kathiresan (63) scored the equalisers for India while Diyorakhon Habibullayeva (7), Lyudmila Karachik (25-penalty) netted for Uzbekistan.

Kamila Zaripova's strike in the second minute of stoppage time crushed India's hopes.

The Uzbeks could have made it 3-1 early in the second half but back to back shots by Diyora in the 59th minute were first saved by India's goalkeeper Shreya Hooda and then by Ashalata's replacement Ritu Rani.

Those saves proved important.



daCunha/AB/869

Fitzpatrick goes into the lead

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

England's Alex Fitzpatrick made his second straight seven-under 65 round to take the lead in The Challenge 2023 presented by KGA here on Wednesday.

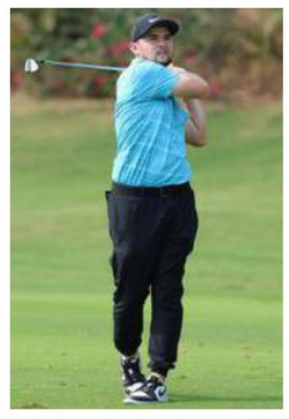
Fitzpatrick, tied second overnight, holds a one shot lead over second placed Ivan Cantero Gutierrez.

Kartik Sharma (11-under 133) was the highest-placed Indian golfer in tied fourth. Southpaw Kartik did well on the back-nine, making three birdies.

Kartik shares his spot with Switzerland's Joel Girrbach and France's Frederic Lacroix (67-66). Girrbach and India's Udayan Mane shot the day's best score with an eight-under 64. Mane (eight-under 136) lies tied-14th.

Twenty Indian players out of a total of 55 made the cut, which was declared at two-under 142.

Fitzpatrick, the younger brother of 2022 U.S. Open champion Matthew Fitzpatrick, had yet another bogey-free round. Fitzpatrick made five birdies and an eagle on the par-five fifth hole.



Fitzpatrick...superb display
GETTY IMAGES

Aman Raj (nine-under 135) moved up six spots to end the day in tied 10th.

The scores (top four): 130: Alex Fitzpatrick (Eng) (65, 65); **131:** Ivan Cantero Gutierrez (Esp) (66, 65); **132:** Lars Van Meijel (Ned) (66, 66); **133:** Joel Girrbach (Sui) (69, 64), Frederic Lacroix (Fra) (67, 66), Kartik Sharma (Ind) (66, 67).

SAMSUNG

Awesome 5G

Galaxy
A34 | A54 5G

Buy now at ₹ 17499*

Market price (Galaxy A34 5G)	₹ 30999#
Exchange value of old device	₹ 11000~
Exchange bonus	₹ 2500**
Effective price	₹ 17499*

Cashback of ₹ 3000*** SBI card | ICICI Bank
or
Exchange bonus of ₹ 2500** Samsung Upgrade

+

10% Extra Cashback^ Samsung Axis Bank Credit Cards

samsung.com

Re+ Please dispose of e-waste and plastic waste responsibly. For more information or for e-waste pick up, please call 1800 40 7267864 or 1800 5 7267864.

Scan for an awesome experience.

Or WhatsApp "Galaxy A" to 9870-494949 to buy now at Samsung Exclusive Stores.

T&C apply. Image simulated for representational purposes only. Colours subject to availability. 5G network subject to availability and actual speed may vary depending on country, network provider and user environment. Galaxy A34 5G and Galaxy A54 5G are rated as IP67. Based on test conditions for submersion in up to 1 metre of fresh water for up to 30 minutes. Not advised for beach or pool use. Water and dust resistance is not permanent and will diminish over time. *Offer price shown above is of 1 (unit) of Galaxy A34 5G 6GB+128GB variant, inclusive of exchange value of old device and exchange bonus. Final price at the sole discretion of the dealer. #Market price of 1 unit of Galaxy A34 5G 6GB+128GB variant. Price inclusive of taxes. ~Approximate value on exchange of 1 unit of Galaxy A22 5G. ** Exchange bonus of ₹ 2500 is only applicable on exchange of select smartphone devices via Samsung upgrade platform. Exchange value and exchange bonus may vary basis the condition of the product and at the sole discretion of the dealer. ***Cashback of ₹ 3000 is applicable on cards of select banks and at the sole discretion of the issuer/NBFCs. Customers can avail only one of the two: Cashback or Exchange bonus, both cannot be availed together. ^10% cashback applicable as per limits - Signature variant ₹ 2500 monthly, ₹ 10000 annually. Infinite variant ₹ 5000 monthly, ₹ 20000 annually. Offer may be revised or withdrawn without prior notice.

Cheil-15195/23

A BG-BGE